Inter-Arab Affairs

Syrian-Jordanian Relations--In a 24 March speech commemorating the establishment of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, Syrian Preisdent Hafiz al-Asad criticized Jordanian King Husayn at length for failing to fight hard in the June 1967 war and thereby allowing Israel to sieze the West Bank with ease. In his address, broadcast live by Damascus radio and television, Al-Asad stressed the importance of Syria's treaty of friendship with the Soviet Union, claiming that while the Soviet Union is giving Syria the "same" arms it gives its Warsaw Pact allies, the United States is not giving Jordan the same arms it gives Israel. This is because Syria and the Soviet Union are friends, he went on, whereas King Husayn is "subservient" to the United States. Al-Asad called King Husayn to implement the decision of the recent Arab summit conference to open Arab fronts to Palestinian fedayeen action. Al-Asad claimed that Syria's own "small front" is open to fedayeen action but noted that in any serious struggle with Israel, Jordan's "long front" offers "better possibilities" for the Arabs. Jordan should not block its front to Palestinian action by "pretexts," Al-Asad said, concluding his speech with further criticisms of King Husayn.

An unattributed Amman radio commentary reacted to the Syrian president's speech by asserting that the "cautious" Hafiz al-Asad had lost his temper and resorted to falsifications that reflect the Syrian regime's "panic and confusion." Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim made a speech to the Arab League Council session in Tunis in which he criticized the Syrian Government for breaking off a trend toward "real unity" with Jordan and making Jordan the target of campaigns of "incrimination and accusations." In his speech, carried textually by PETRA-JNA, Al-Qasim said that Syria's present support for Iran is inconsistent with its earlier support for Arab rights in "Arabistan" and also accused Syria of seeking to impose "hegemony" on the Palestinians. Documenting recent Syrian acts of "terrorism," the Jordanian foreign minister called on the Arab League Council to lay down a "practical formula" to confront such terrorism and its perpetrators.

Libyan Call to League--Tripoli radio confirmed that Libya has submitted a memorandum to the Arab League Council session in Tunis calling for Sudan's expulsion from the league owing to its decision to restore diplomatic relations with Egypt and its willingness to permit U.S. "military bases" on Sudanese territory.

Arab League Council Session--The Arab League Council session ended in Tunis on 25 March, Tunis radio reported. It added that in a press conference after the final meeting, Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said that the council condemned the Israeli plan to dig a canal linking the Mediterranean and Dead Seas and decided to put the U.S. decision to supply Israel with nuclear reactors on the coming Arab summit agenda.

Jibril on Brezhnev Proposals--Citing the Lebanese newspaper ASH-SHARQ, KUNA reported that Ahmad Jibril, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, has rejected a recent call by Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev for an international conference on the Middle East, terming it a mere "trial balloon." PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat had welcomed the proposal. which Brezhnev made during the 26th CPSU Congress in February.

Oman Protest--Muscat radio reported that the Sultanate of Oman has sent a note to the Arab League complaining of "repeated acts of aggression" against Oman by the PDRY. It listed several incidents in November 1980 and February 1981 in which, it alleged, PDRY forces crossed the border into Oman and in some cases opened fire on Omani troops. On 27 February, the note said, the ambassadors of the states of the Arabian Peninsula and Gulf were informed of the incidents. The note stressed that Oman has never initiated aggression against the PDRY.

Israel

In a Jerusalem television interview, Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said that with a "correct" Israeli policy it would be possible to establish a "regional antiterror setup" to counter Soviet or alien penetration and "fanatic" forces and at the same time to promote economic cooperation. Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the United States and Israel could cooperate, he said, in establishing a mutually desirable setup. A new chapter has begun in Israel's foreign policy, he added, in which Israel will hold "parallel" negotiations with Egypt on Camp David, with the inhabitants of the occupied territories and with Jordan. Regarding the "Jordanian option," Peres indicated that he would prefer Jordan to reject an Israeli initiative than have Israel always being blamed for adopting a negative attitude. Peres praised the Reagan administration for emphasizing the need for a "joint war" against terrorism.

Lebanon

Clashes in Ba'labakk--Voice of Lebanon radio reported that 15 people were killed and 80 wounded during clashesin Ba'labakk over the past few days. According to KUNA, the clashes between the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Amal movement and pro-Iraq Ba'thists resumed suddenly on 25 March after intervention the day before by Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces (ADF). Voice of Lebanon claimed that the ADF had been unable to separate the warring factions because of intensive shelling and sniping "from all directions." A 26 March Voice of Lebanon report said that the ADF had announced a 48-hour deadline for the closure of all Iraqi Ba'th Party and PLO offices in Ba'labakk.

Army Deployment--Beirut radio reported that a meeting of high-level political and military leaders approved a "practical plan" to dispatch the Lebanese Army to the south in stages.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

The Iranian Air Force shot down an Iraqi aircraft over Shadegan, Tehran radio reported. INA claimed that Iraqi forces shot down an Iranian Phantom over Umm Qasr. Tehran radio also reported that Iranian troops attacked and occupied the hills overlooking Nowsud, while the INA account of the clash said that Iranian troops were forced to flee from the area.

Pakistan

Citing "court sources," AFP reported that the chief justice of the Supreme Court, two other Supreme Court judges and a number of provincial high court judges have refused to take the oath of office stipulated by the new Constitution promulgated on 24 March. Under the new Constitution, judges must take a new oath of office or lose their positions. The Constitution has deprived the courts of the power to review cases tried by military tribunals.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East and Africa

Vol V No 058 *26 March 1981*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Reportage on Arab League Council Session A 1
Moroccan Note A 1
Boucetta Statement A 3
Jordanian Minister's Speech A 4
Envoy's Abduction Denounced A 8
Klibi Press Conference A 8
Al-Asad To Address Palestine National Council A 9
PFLP Figure Rejects Brezhnev Mideast Proposals A 9
'Arafat Begins Visit to Bangladesh 26 Mar [VOP] A 10

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

Iranian Aircraft Reportedly Cross Kuwaiti Airspace C 1
Defense Minister Comments on Arms Deal With FRG C 1

OMAN

Reports on Evictions From Socotra by Soviets Cited C 1

SAUDI ARABIA

UK Defense Minister Discusses RDF With Officials C 2
[London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH 25 Mar]

PDRY

AAPSO Establishes New Positions, Election Process C 3

EGYPT

MENA Reports on 'Ali Talks, Address in Denmark D 1
Talks With Danish Leaders D 1
Banquet Address D 2
Nawfal Leaves To Convey As-Sadat Message in Lagos D 3
MAY Reports NPUG Plans for Protest in Cairo [23 May] D 3

IRAQ

Hammadi Reiterates Readiness To Cease Fire E 1
Armed Forces General Command Communique 286 E 1
Deputy Premier Leaves for Nouakchott 25 Mar E 2
Kurdish Leader Praises Iraq's Support for Iranians E 2

JORDAN

Radio Comments on Hafiz Al-Asad's ICATU Speech F 1

LEBANON

ADF Statement on Ba'labakk, Beirut Incidents G 1
ADF Gives Ultimatum to Organizations in Ba'labakk G 1
Leaders Approve Army Deployment Plan in South G 1
Al-Wazzan Comments G 2

SYRIA

Al-Asad's ICATU Speech Repudiates Husayn Remarks H 1
Statement by Jordanian Workers Federation Cited H 15
Jordanian Regime Seen as 'Artificial Entity' H 15

ISRAEL

Officials Mark Anniversary of Treaty With Egypt I 1
Begin Message I 1
Shamir Remarks I 1
U.S. Plan To Shift Aid to El Salvador Reported I 1
Military Situation in Southern Lebanon Assessed I 2
Iraqi Planes Receiving Military Items in Cairo I 3
[MA'ARIV 26 Mar]
Shim'on Peres Interviewed on Foreign Policy I 3
Bedouin Chiefs To Run on Independent List I 6
Palestinian Units Sent to Spain for Training I 6

NORTH AFRICA

MAURITANIA

Moroccan Charges of Polisario Collusion Denied Q 1
Foreign Ministry Statement Q 1
Arab Observers Invited Q 1
Iraqi President's Envoy Arrives in Nouakchott Q 1
Leaders of Coup Attempt Lose Appeal, Executed Q 2
Appeal Rejection Q 2
26 Mar Execution Q 2
Haydala Envoys To Confer With African Leaders Q 2

MOROCCO

Bouabid Warns Bneijara on 'Mercenary' Support Q 2
Niger Leader Very Pleased With Moroccan Talks Q 3

SUDAN

Collaborators With Libya To Lose Citizenship Q 4
Statement by Embassy in Jidda Outlines Policy Q 5
[London ASH-SHARQ AL-ANSAT 24 Mar]

EAST AFRICA

TANZANIA

Minister Urges Border Meetings With Kenya R 1

UGANDA

Vice President Comments on Power Disruption R 1
President Obote To Address Nation on 28 Mar R 2
Nairobi Reports Casualties in Kampala Attack R 2
Dar es Salaam Reports Two Dead, Two Missing R 2
Minister Addresses Plans for Public Service R 2

CENTRAL AFRICA

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Curfew Reduced 1 Hour; Opposition Leaders Meet S 1
LE MONDE Interviews Opposition Leader Patasse [24 Mar] S 1

CHAD

Leaders Making Efforts To End Libyan Presence S 3
[Paris LE CONTINENT 23 Mar]

WEST AFRICA

GHANA

Limann Comments on Ivorian Incident, Reaction T 1
UNC Suggests Recall of Ambassador to Ivory Coast T 1

GUINEA-BISSAU

Portuguese News Agency Correspondent Expelled T 1

LIBERIA

Doe Says Bank Takeover To Protect Investors T 2

MALI

Communique Issued on Ghanaian President's Visit T 2

NIGERIA

Foreign Minister Confers With UN Secretary General T 4
Talks Open With Cuba on Health Care, Agriculture T 4

UPPER VOLTA

Student Union Protests 'Arbitrary' Arrests T 5
Zerbo Denial T 5

SOUTHERN AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICA

Botha Reacts to Statement by Africa Bloc Chairman U 1

ZIMBABWE

Diplomatic Relations Established With CSSR U 1

REPORTAGE ON ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL SESSION

Moroccan Note

LD251534 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] The Moroccan delegation [at the meeting of the Arab League Council in Tunis] yesterday issued a clarification note regarding the Moroccan complaint. Here is the text:

The Kingdom of Morocco finds itself compelled for the first time to lodge a complaint against an Arab state, after having always worked for the noninvolvement of the Arab League in the question of the existing tension in the Maghreb region out of its concern to maintain the required minimum of Arab solidarity and not to discuss Arab bilateral disputes at the Arab League Council so that the Arab action will remain concentrated in the interest of the first Arab fateful issue--the question of Palestine--and the confrontation of the Zionist Israeli occupation, despite the fact that the kingdom is aware that the discussion of this issue within the Arab League would be useful in view of the fact that the Arab League in all its actions takes into account the question of unity and does not encourage pseudo-entities. But the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco has noted with much regret that the enemies of Morocco's territorial integrity are bent on creating imaginary problems in order to increase tension in the area and to drag it to a state of confrontation so that the only party that can benefit from such a situation will be none other than the enemy of the Islamic nation, who benefits from the preoccupation of Arab states with each other at the expense of the question of Palestine and holy Jerusalem.

In view of the trivialities and falsehoods claimed by the Government of Mauritania, the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco finds itself obliged to state that all the Mauritanian allegations and accustations are cheap fabrications and a premeditated act aiming at driving a wedge between the Moroccan and Mauritanian peoples, and not for the first time, as Morocco has previously encountered similar attempts when the Arab League was informed of the Mauritanian allegations regarding an imaginary Moroccan attack on Mauritanian soil and the strafing of the town of Nouadhibou by the Moroccan Air Force. Then the league and world public opinion learned that such claims were unfounded. In order to reveal the facts and for history's sake the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco would like to put matters into their true perspective and point out that several days prior to the 12 March 1981 events the threads of the game which was being hatched against Morocco became apparent. Following an official anti-Moroccan campaign by the media organised by the Government of Mauritania, the Mauritanian Government council held on 12 March a meeting which was devoted to the discussion of the so-called Moroccan intention to carry out an aggression on Mauritania. Foreign ambassadors in Nouakchott were summoned and informed that Morocco was getting ready to launch an aggression on Mauritania. The council issued an official statement full of cheap accustations against Morocco and against its sovereign and government.

The matter came to light when the same accusations were voiced by Algiers and Tripoli. when the Algerian foreign minister on 14 March received the ambassadors of a number of countries to inform them that Morocco was preparing for an aggression against Mauritania, and when the Algerian press published a map portraying Morocco as a state which has ambitions in Mauritanian territories and which wishes to expand, everyone realized that the aim behind this game is to drive a wedge between the Moroccan and Mauritanian peoples and to officially take Mauritania into the anti-Morocco group that opposes Moroccan territorial integrity.

In order to avoid any misinterpretation of Morocco's attitudes, the minister of state in charge of foreign affairs and cooperation on 16 March made a statement in which he reaffirmed Morocco's respect for Mauritania's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and Morocco's determination not to interfere in Mauritania's internal affairs. This confirmed previous statements made by His Majesty King Hassan II who reaffirmed Morocco's respect for Mauritania's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

However the campaign reached its peak on 16 March when an announcement was made regarding an attempted coup, the ninth of its kind within a period of 3 years. Morocco was falsely accused of being behind the attempted coup. The Mauritanian Government severed diplomatic relations with the Kingdom of Morocco despite the fact that Morocco had no connection at all with this attempt, which did not start from Moroccan territory, and which was carried out by senior Mauritanian officers in the Mauritanian Army, under the leadership of Ahmed Ould Sidi, who had previously occupied the post of acting prime minister following the death of the late Ould Bouceiff, the then Mauritanian prime minister, and Col Ould Abdelkader--both of whom were members of the ruling Military Committee for National Salvation in Mauritania.

From all this we can see that there is nothing to justify the accusations against Morocco. There is no foundation for such an accusation. The attempt was not launched from Moroccan territory. No Moroccan took part in the attempt. No weapons from Morocco were used in the attempt. On the contrary, Morocco has always faithfully proved its belief in the necessity of cooperation between the Moroccan and Mauritanian peoples in all fields--cultural, economic, and constructional, and has set up a special agency for this cooperation for which it has earmarked vast resources.

In the military field Morocco agreed to the request of the Mauritanian Government when the need arose despite the many sacrifices it sustained. It dispatched more than 8,000 men from the cream of its armed forces, who defended Mauritania along with their Mauritanian brothers. This was out of the Moroccan Government's belief in the unity of destiny of the two fraternal Mauritanian and Moroccan peoples.

The only motive for the escalation of the campaign against Morocco and the accusations of expansionism and hegemony, inspired by those who truly wish to expand and practice hegemony and dream about imaginary leadership of the area, was to prepare for a premeditated aggression on Morocco and its territorial integrity following the victories on the battlefields and the diplomatic fields scored by Morocco in its attempts to safeguard this integrity. Morocco, which has for the past 5 years been confronting aggression by mercenaries who are being armed and trained in Libya and Algeria and who set out from territories under Algerian administration, is determined to defend its sovereignty and land and territorial integrity, and will use all its capabilities and means to confront the aggression and defeat the policy of hegemony and expansionism and expose those who dream of this in the area.

At the same time, Morocco, which renews its respect for Mauritania's sovereignty and integrity and stresses the necessity of non-interference in the internal affairs of any country by any side, would like to reaffirm that it does not conspire against any country; the real conspiracy which is being hatched against the Mauritanian people aims at transferring the theatre of conflict in the area to Mauritanian territory at the expense of the stability and prosperity of the Mauritanian people and at the expense of the future of relations between the two fraternal peoples and the future of the peoples of the greater Arab Maghreb which Morocco worked and will continue to work for its establishment.

The Moroccan Government, while requesting the esteemed Arab League Council to condemn these falsified accusations and denounce the aggressions on Morocco and which aim at Morocco's security and stability and at breaking up of Morocco's territorial integrity, would like to reaffirm anew its commitment to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of the member-countries and its respect for the latter's sovereignty and territorial integrity in accordance with the charter of Arab solidarity and the charter of the Arab League.

Boucetta Statement

LD251450 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] The Arab League Council meeting in Tunis last night discussed the Moroccan message criticizing Mauritania. At the beginning of the session, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation M'hamed Boucetta informed the council of the contents of the message which he received from Morocco, pointing out that on 24 March 1981 the Moroccan village of Guelta Zemmur was the subject of an attack launched from Mauritanian territory by the mercenaries, and that the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces fought back the attack and are still pursuing the mercenaries.

Mr Boucetta explained that a look on the map shows that the attackers did not emanate from Tinduof, as they used to do in the past, but from the Ain Ben Tili and Bir Mogrein region.

In his review Mr Boucetta refuted the Mauritanian allegations, fabrications and claims, pointing out that they are mere concoctions that seek to create trouble between the Moroccan and Mauritanian people; it was inspired from abroad. He explained that the engineering of the operation against Morocco began several days before 16 March. He listed all facts, including the propaganda campaign and the statement by the Mauritanian Cabinet on 12 March, which referred to Morocco's intention to carry out aggression; this was conveyed to foreign ambassadors by Mauritanian officials.

The same tone was noted at the same time in Algiers and Tripoli. This demonstrates that the matter falls within the framework of a plot which had been concocted against Morocco with the aim of bringing Mauritania openly into the group that opposes Morocco's territorial integrity.

The minister of state pointed out that Morocco's diplomatic and military successes made the enemies of Morocco look for a new outlet for their mercenaries, after the Moroccan Royal Armed Fordes had closed all outlets to them in the east. He stressed that the troubled internal situation in Mauritania and the differences in the ranks of the military leadership itself, and also the fact that they threw themselves into the arms of Libya and Algeria, made the rulers of Nouakchott try to shed responsibility for the conditions which had made a number of Mauritanian officers attempt a coup on 12 March, the ninth of its kind in less than 2 years. He explained that the aim is to create a Tripoli-Algiers-Nouckchott axis against Morocco so as to oppose Morocco's territorial integrity and to undermine stability and impose regimes and ideology on the entire region. He stressed that Morocco will resist this with all its determination and that this attempt will be crushed on the rock of Moroccan national unity behind His Majesty King Hassan II.

Concluding his review Mr Boucetta said that the contents of the message read to the council at the beginning underlines what Morocco has been expecting, namely, that Mauritanian territory has become a (?starting point) for attacks on Morocco. He demanded the condemnation of the false and biased campaigns against Morocco and its integrity and condemnation of the attacks to which the Moroccan territory is being exposed.

Jordanian Minister's Speech

JN2515 45 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] Tunis, 25 Mar (PETRA)--Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim has reviewed the current Arab situation and Jordan's continuous efforts to preserve Arab solidarity and to continue the joint Arab action as drawn up by the 11th Arab summit conference held in Amman last November.

In a speech he delivered before the Arab League Council's 75th session, currently being held in Tunis on the level of foreign ministers, the foreign minister stressed Jordan's clear and steady pan-Arab stand toward its nation's issues, headed by the principal issue of Palestine. He also exposed the Syrian regime's attempts to preoccupy Joran and prevent it from carrying out its role in confronting the Zionist enemy. He pointed out that regime's contradictory stands toward what is submitted on both the international and Arab levels and its attmpts to get an important role regardless of the price and results.

Following is the text of the foreign minister's speech:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Mr Chairman, brother colleagues:

First of all, I would like to extend my thanks and appreciation to Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, for the efforts he exerted during his chairmanship of the previous Arab League Council's session. I would also like to extend my sincere congratulations to His Excellency Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, Kuwait deputy prime minister and foreign minister, on his election as chairman of this session. I beseech God to render his mission a success.

Mr Chairman, brothers, we meet in this session of the Arab League Council at a time when we are in dire need of meeting in order to discuss our situation, explain our stands, draw up our path and speak with the frankness and logic of brothers. We meet at a time when we are all witnessing attempts to split the ranks which were unified at the Baghdad conference, influences aimed at disrupting the solidarity we entrenched at the Tunis conference and stands aimed at undermining the march of the joint Arab action and the edifice of intrinsic power we achieved at the Amman conference.

Mr Chairman, brethren, following Egypt's exit from the line of Arab confrontation with Israel we in Jordan have become certain that we are all aimed at by our enemy and that pan-Arab responsibility makes it incumbent on us to render Arab solidarity as our target for which we work day and night. This responsibility requires us to depend upon ourselves in building the Arab intrinsic power in order to confront all the challenges that may be made to us by our enemy. Consequently, we have confronted the attempts to divide and split the Arab ranks with clear stands, steady objectives and full commitment to principles. We have succeeded in thwarting the Camp David schemes through a unified Arab stand. We have also foiled the self-rule plot through commitment to the firm pan-Arab stand and defense of the Palestinian Arab people's legitimate rights, including their right to establish their state under the PLO, the sole legitimate representative.

We were about to overcome our predicament when we began to hear--this has been taking place for over a year now--about the return of campaigns to cast doubt on our stand, reiterating the lies told by our enemy with the aim of perplexing us.

The region returned once again to the policy of axes, alliances and treaties under slogans against which we fought hard. Such a policy aims at internationalizing our struggle with the Zionist enemy and paralyzing the Arab will and capability to perform joint action.

Mr Chairman, Jordanian-Syrian relations have witnessed uninterrupted growth in recent years. During these years, the two countries have completed the unification of some laws and were approaching real unity, progressing in accordance with logical and objective steps. However, this real trend toward unity was not liked by the Syrian leadership, which wanted it to be achieved in a hasty manner and in accordance with transitional slogans incompatible with the real required objective of unity. Meanwhile, Jordan adhered to the quiet and well-studied method in completing the two countries' unity due to its conviction that the repercussions caused by the failure of this unity would be much graver than its failure between two countries that are geographically separated, as was the case with Egypt and Syria.

Later, relations between the two fraternal countries began to gradually become tepid. During this time, Jordan was the target of campaigns of incrimination and accusations. Jordan does not know the reasons for these campaigns nor why they were made at this particular time.

We in Jordan do not know the reason behind Syria's disagreement with us. Is it because of our firm and inalienable stand on the Camp David accords? Is it because of our confrontation of the autonomy plots concerning the occupied territories? Is it because of our full support for the Palestinian people's rights, including their right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their national soil, Palestine, under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative? Or is it because of our support for the brothers in Iraq who are facing a threat from the East which is aimed against our nation, a threat that equals that coming from the West?

We all recall the accusations made by the official Syrian organs against fraternal Iraq. These organs accused Iraq of relinquishing Arab land and rights by signing the Algiers agreement of 1975 with Iran. We cannot understand how the Syrian leadership changed its logic and how Arab Arabistan became, in the point of view of the Syrian leadership, an Iranian land. This leadership even says that Iran should share with Iraq in the sovereignty over Shatt al-'Arab. The official Syrian leadership's strategic objective is for Iraq to be defeated so that the entire Gulf may become coverless and the Arab land endangered. How can we explain the fact that the official Syrian media and leadership are grasping and repeating the enemy's words, ideas and poison?

The Syrian regime has blamed Iraq for its war with Iran under the pretext that this war will divert the Iraqi forces' attention from the battle against Israel and under the pretext that Iraq has not consulted Syria in this matter. The Syrian leadership tends to forget the fact that Iraq, Jordan, Morocco and all the Arab states rushed to support Syria in the 1973 war without being consulted in advance about this war. The Syrian leadership tends to forget how it massed its forces on the border with Jordan in an attempt to weaken Jordan's stand in the confrontation with Israel, reassured about the safety of its front with the enemy due to the presence of UN forces on the Golan Heights.

Iraq has always and will continue to back the Arab confrontation states facing Israel. Iraq will continue to do so regardless of all the designs aimed against it. No matter what they do, they will not be able to erase the graves of the Iraqi martyrs buried in the land of Jenin, Qalqilyah, the Jordan Valley and the Golan.

Mr Chairman, during the meetings of the seven-member committee in Amman to prepare for the 11th Arab summit conference, and as we were trying to reach an agreement on a strategy for joint Arab action, our brother the Syrian foreign minister was openly threatening--as you recall--to declare war against us. Due to the nature of the meeting place, from which we were able to overlook the outskirts of Jerusalem and the mountains of Palestine, we in Jordan decided not to react to the brother's threat. We did this despite the fact that our brother left for Damascus in order to threaten us with the roar of the Syrian Arab tanks massing against Jordan. This was happening at a time when we expected that the Syrian tanks would move from their concentrations on the Syrian land toward the Israeli border. We were able to sense the undeclared amazement on your faces and the pains in your hearts, the things which urged you to embark on a rapid move to prevent any further deterioration and to avoid tragedy.

Mr Chairman, this deterioration in Syrian-Jordanian relations was accompanied by what the Syrian regime has repeatedly claimed about the Jordanian role. These claims are almost a verbatim repeat of the Israeli statements and the announcements of the Israeli Labor Party leaders. Actually, the Israeli Labor Party leaders found no one but the official Syrian leadership to share in their views.

We honestly know, brothers, who is plotting against the Palestinian action, for among the alien organizations that have appeared in the arena is the Syrian As-Sa'iqah organization, which is not Palestinian in its identity and decision.

We also realize that the plurality of the organizations hinder the Palestinian action. We did not realize at that time that the objectives of imposing hegemony on and containing the Palestinian action were old objectives in some people's minds.

The quest for a role and the fighting over this role are actually the objectives of the official Syrian leadership now ruling Syria. We do not think that this leadership is concerned about the results. Therefore, we can see the contradiction in this leadership's stands on the European initiative. In the beginning, the Syrian leadership announced its total rejection of the European initiative and said that this initiative completes the Camp David accords. Later, we learned that the European envoy got a strong Syrian response to this initiative.

Jordan's stand was that this initiative was a positive step, yet it is not satisfactory concerning the establishment of a just peace in the area. Jordan urged the European envoy to further develop this step in the direction that meets with the legitimate Palestinian and Arab rights.

The Jordanian ambassador's residence in Beirut was subjected to an organized terrorist act, which was carried out by using a large force. This resulted in the martyrdom of one of the Jordanian guards and the Lebanese gendarme stationed in front of the residence and the kidnapping of Jordanian Charge d'Affaires Hisham al-Muhaysin, who was taken to a quarter which we do not know but which they know. All this occurred after the ADF had discontinued their protection of the house and embassy only a short period before the incident, this step representing the first stage of the schemes.

These forces were practically entrusted with the protection of the embassies and diplomatic missions in Lebanon.

However, these forces were withdrawn following the Jordanian Embassy's demand that its protection be bolstered. This demand was made after the embassy confirmed reports on the intention of some terrorist groups to attack the embassy. The Lebanese authorities were informed about these reports 2 days before the incident.

Despite the security apparatuses' attempts to wash their hands of responsibility for the kidnapping, no one can disregard or deny the Syrian regime's direct responsibility for this act, particularly since this regime is described as the real power force in the Lebanese arena at present.

Jordan thus demands that your esteemed council shoulder responsibility where this grave act is concerned and exert all efforts with all the parties concerned in order to guarantee the safety and release of the Jordanian charge d'affaires.

Yet the Syrian regime was not satisfied with what it did in Lebanon under the guise it assumes and through its involvement in the implementation of a new form of organized terrorism. Rather, this regime entrusted regular Syrian military groups with the mission of assasinating the Jordanian prime minister, after having divested the group's personnel of their Arab soldiers' uniforms, which they donned during their wars against their nation's enemies, and clothed these personnel with terrorist and criminal garb.

Jordan was not the sole target of Syrian terrorism. Indeed, such terrorist acts also included many elements and the Arab states, not to mention the Syrian people themselves, who are being subjected to murder and group massacres. Furthermore, prominent Syrian and Arab figures are being subjected to attempts to assassinate or exterminate them.

Thus, I would like to request your noble council to work to lay down a practical formula for the confrontation of terrorism and its perpetrators, a formula which will safeguard the security of our people and the authority of our states and restore real Arab morals and virtues. Our delegation will submit a draft resolution to your council to this effect.

You are aware that since the explosion of the situation in Lebanon, Jordan has supported all unified Arab actions to save Lebanon from the tragedy of civil war, to which it is being exposed. After the deterioration of the situation in Lebanon, Jordan did not hesitate in supporting the entry of the Syrian forces into Lebanon to restore security and tranquility there and to open channels for dialogue among its various factions. Jordan has defended the Syrian measure and confronted all the criticisms directed to the Syrian measure and confronted all the criticisms directed to the Syrian forces at the time.

Because of the continuation of the tragedy, the increase in division and dispersion, the escalation of terrorism, the assassination of intellect and reason in Lebanon, the expansion of Israel in southern Lebanon and the division of Lebanon into red and green zones, Jordan, however, calls on Arab countries to shoulder their responsibility of restoring security and reconciliation to Lebanon and rescuing the Lebanese people from the conspiracies that are being concocted and implemented by Israel's partners.

Mr President, brothers, as always, Jordan will never be influenced by the opinion of swindlers, will not be dragged into the labyrinths of those who have raised empty slogans and will not let anyone preoccupy it from its battle with the Zionist enemy, who began to formulate options and to distribute roles. Some applauded the enemy and others followed him while Jordan remained committed to its constant pan-Arab stand, which has not changed and will not change, God willing.

Brothers, our peripheral differences, regardless of what their perpetrators might do, will not prevent us from proceeding on the road of joint Arab action. Those who are casting doubts and repeating Israeli claims will not succeed in weakening the confidence which our countries and peoples have gained at the Baghdad, Tunis and Amman summits. Arab solidarity will remain the source of our strength and the Arabs' intrinsic strength will continue to be the cause of our steadfastness. Those who are conspiring against us will not succeed, no matter what they do.

May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Envoy's Abduction Denounced

JN251920 Amman Domestic Service in Arabaic 1600 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Excerpt] The Arab League Council has denounced the attack on the Jordanian ambassador's residence in Beirut and the abduction of Jordanian Charge d'Affaires Hisham al-Muhaysin.

The council, now meeting in Tunis, has voiced its concern over the abduction of the Jordanian diplomat as well as other acts of murder, abduction and terrorism, describing them as actions that contradict Arab manners and violate human rights and integrity. The council called on those responsible for the abduction of Hisham al-Muhaysin to return him safe and sound.

Klibi Press Conference

LD260300 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] The Arab League Council this evening ended its work. Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi said at a press conference at the end of the council meeting that the council addressed a call to Morocco and Mauritania urging them to show restraint and to overcome the tension between them through dialogue. He said that the council asked him to undertake good-will efforts and to come back to the council should the need arise. He said he will visit both countries for this purpose.

Chedli Klibi spoke about the Israeli plan to construct a canal linking the Mediterranean and the Dead Sea. He said that this project constitutes a serious danger to the Arab world and that it represents a serious aggression against the Palestinian people and their rights. It also represents a serious aggression against large areas of Palestinian and Jordanian land, which is being seen as a new violation of the principles of international law and UN resolutions. The council views any support or backing given to Israel for this project as harmful to relations with Arab countries. He warned all concerned parties that they would be held responsible for any positions and measures that Arab countries may take in this context. Chedli announced that the council decided to put on the coming Arab summit agenda the U.S. decision to supply Israel with nuclear reactors, pointing out that this project was linked to the canal project.

The council discussed the affairs of Palestinians in Arab countries and the fate of the UNRWA, which is threatened as a result of a deficit in its finances. The council urged the UN to put the agency within the general UN budget, in view of the fact that its responsibility is international and humanitarian and because it is the UN's responsibility--having adopted a resolution to establish Israel on Arab land, whose owners were compelled to leave by force.

As regards the relations of the Arab world with other international groups, Klibi said that the council reviewed Arab-African cooperation and took note of the latest meeting of the coordinating committee between the Arab League and the OAU. The council confirmed the importance of this step and recommended its continuation and the consolidation of steps between both sides so that Arab-African dialogue, at the political level becomes as active as in economic and social fields. He said the council confirmed its support for the struggle of the people of Namibia and called for increased Arab efforts for the consolidation of this struggle. He pointed out that the council, by deciding this, confirmed the firm stance of Arab countries to resisting colonialism and apartheid and that it adopted this decision out of a belief in the need to consolidate fraternal relations between Arab and African groups.

Concerning Arab-African dialogue, Klibi said that the council confirmed its importance and called for increased efforts to organize it well.

The council was also acquainted with committee work and preparations for a joint conference of Arab League foreign ministers and the EEC in a European capital in the second half of this year.

Chedli Klibi said the council devoted much time to reviewing efforts made concerning the studying of a proposal for amending the league charter. He also said that the council decided to build a new headquarters for the general secretariat and recommended practical methods to assist in the implementation of this project in all its stages in the best way. He said the council expressed in this context its confidence in the work of the general secretariat and offered encouragement for its efforts. The secretary general said the cost of the new headquarters was estimated at $22 million. He said Tunisia would place at the league's disposal land near the conference's palace in the capital, pointing out that Tunisia had a project for the construction of a luxury hotel in the same area.

He stated that the Tunisian Government was making further efforts to facilitate the work of the league and to play the role of friendly mediator so as to make the march of Arab action [words indistinct]. He said Tunisia, which feels a special duty for being the headquarters, did not interfere in the affairs of the league and facilitated its work as much as possible.

AL-ASAD TO ADDRESS PALESTINE NATIONAL COUNCIL

NC261014 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, has confirmed that the council will hold its 15th ordinary session on 16 April in Damascus. He said that President Hafiz al-Asad will chair the opening session and deliver an important speech on the occasion.

PFLP FIGURE REJECTS BREZHNEV MIDEAST PROPOSALS

LD251124 Kuwait KUNA in English 1044 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] Beirut, 25 Mar (KUNA)--A pro-Syrian Palestinian guerrilla leader Wednesday rejected a call by Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev for an international conference on the Middle East which Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had warmly welcomed.

Captain Ahmad Jibril of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command said the proposal made by Brezhnev last month before the Soviet Communist Party congress in Moscow "is nothing but a test balloon."

"We also believe that the international conference proposed by the Soviets fell (before birth) when the Geneva conference had collapsed" after conclusion of the U.S.-sponsored Camp David accords between Egypt and Israel, Jibril said in an exclusive interview with the pro-Syrian Lebanese daily newspaper ASH-SHARQ.

Brezhnev, according to Jibril, made the proposal to "throw the ball in America's net so that no one can say that the Soviets are against any peaceful settlement" to the Middle East crisis.

PLO Chairman 'Arafat had warmly welcomed the proposal in a lengthy cable of gratitude to Brezhnev.

Jibril disclosed that Moscow had informed Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad of the proposal before announcing it.

Syria had recently concluded a treaty of friendship and cooperation with the Soviet Union.

'ARAFAT BEGINS VISIT TO BANGLADESH 26 MAR

NC261001 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0645 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] This morning official talks started between brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and the president of Bangladesh, Ziaur Rahman.

Brother Abu 'Ammar and the delegation accompanying him arrived after midnight in Dacca from Saudi Arabia. His Excellency President Ziaur Rahman led those who welcomed Abu 'Ammar. Also present were the prime minister of Bangladesh, Shah Azizur Rahman, Foreign Minister Professor Mohammad Shamsul Haq and a number of ministers, army commanders, the PLO representative in Dacca and members of the PLO diplomatic mission there.

The streets were decorated with Palestinian and Bangladesh flags as well as pictures of the brother commander general.

After the welcoming ceremony the president of Bangladesh accompanied Brother Abu 'Ammar to his lodgings at the presidential palace in the capital.

As is known the PLO and Bangladesh are members of the Islamic good will committee which is trying to terminate the conflict between Iraq and Iran. The Palestinian-Bangali relations are friendly and positive in various spheres.

KUWAIT

IRANIAN AIRCRAFT REPORTEDLY CROSS KUWAITI AIRSPACE

LD260930 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0739 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Mar (KUNA)--A press report here today says that two Iranian military aircraft crossed Kuwait's airspace while raiding southern Iraq yesterday. No immediate official comment about the report is available. The report, published by AL-ANBA, quotes people coming to Kuwait from Iraq across the common border which is close to the Iraqi-Iranian theater of war in the northern edge of the Arabian Gulf.

The paper says that the aircraft crossing took place at 1043 GMT, but it does not specify the precise location. Iranian aircraft twice raided the Kuwaiti northern border post of Al-Abdalli last November.

DEFENSE MINISTER COMMENTS ON ARMS DEAL WITH FRG

LD260950 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0737 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Kuwait, 26 Mar (KUNA)--The Kuwaiti Minister of Defense, Shaykh Salim as-Sabah said in a press statement today that his country did not have contacts with West Germany to purchase weapons from it. However, he did not exclude such a possibility in the future. The statement, published in the Kuwait weekly AL-HADAF, said that Shaykh Salim was responding to a report attributed to the president of the industrialist union in Bonn which said that Kuwait, the UAE and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wanted to buy weapons from West Germany.

The defense minister said: "We have not officially contacted the Federal German Government and have not asked to purchase weapons made in Germany." However, he continued: "This does not mean we do not lack the desire to supply our armed forces with West German weapons if we find in the future a need to have such weapons."

He stressed Kuwait's policy of diversification of the sources of its weapons from abroad. He said: "Our policy is based and will remain so on the diversification of weapons from any source according to the plans and the programs of the Ministry of Defense aimed at raising the level of our armed forces and equipping them with advanced equipment and weapons."

OMAN

REPORTS ON EVICTIONS FROM SOCOTRA BY SOVIETS CITED

LD251910 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Oman radio was ahead in broadcasting the 17 March report about the operations currently being carried out by the Russians on Socotra Island to evacuate its population by force with the aim of making room for expansion of the Soviet naval base there. Soviet reaction was full of anger and deceit; the Moscow radio commentator described this report as sheer fabrication.

However, latest reports from the island refute the Soviet allegation and expose its error, for on 27 February, male members of nine families were arrested because they protested the evacuation orders. They were sent to detention camps in southern Yemen. After their own deportation, their families were deported. Reports from reliable sources in Aden say these families were abandoned in a camp near (Abyan).

SAUDI ARABIA

UK DEFENSE MINISTER DISCUSSES RDF WITH OFFICIALS

LD251209 London THE DAILY TELEGRAPH in English 25 Mar 81 p 4

[John Bulloch dispatch: "Saudis Cool on Nott's Case for Gulf Force"]

[Text] Riyadh--Saudi Arabian ministers made plain yesterday their deep misgivings about the American idea for a Rapid Deployment Force in the Gulf area which Britain has enthusiastically backed.

The Saudi views were given to Mr Nott, British minister of defence, who recently discussed the whole question in Washington with Gen. Haig, secretary of state.

In talks with Prince Sultan, Saudi minister of defence, Prince Abdullah, commander of the national guard and Prince Ahmed, deputy interior minister, Mr Nott's argument was that America and Britain would be lacking in foresight if they were not in a position to provide aid, if asked to do so.

Mr Nott made it clear that neither America nor Britain would deploy any force except with the permission and at the request of the countries concerned. The defence of the area was primarily for the countries of the region, he said.

Immediately after the meeting with Mr Nott, Prince Ahmed spoke of the missed opportunities and lack of understanding in the West which had allowed Russia to penetrate the area.

Western countries would do better to try to understand the region rather than talking about deploying troops, he said. It would be better to send food for the Afghan refugees in Pakistan rather than talk of setting up bases.

Mr Nott was accompanied by Admiral Sir Terence Lewin, chief of defence staff, and a team from the Defence Ministry which included the deputy head of the arms sales division.

Britain is paricularly anxious to know what Saudi Arabia intends to use to replace its aging squadrons of Lightnings and hopes the Saudi Government will decide that the Tornado meets their requirements.

Possibilities to Britain providing other equipment were also discussed, though officials emphasized that Mr Nott's visit, the first by a defence minister for almost four years, was not intended as a selling mission.

The Saudi Ministers seemed well aware of this and, as usual took the opportunity to hammer the point that a settlement of the Palestine problem would solve many other issues in the Middle East.

Mr Nott said he hoped that the projected European initiative would contribute to that end.

PDRY

AAPSO ESTABLISHES NEW POSITIONS, ELECTION PROCESS

LD251126 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The organizing subcommittee of the 13th AAPSO session concluded its work this evening. It passed an organizing resolution of constitutional force for the transitional period, stipulating the establishment of two distinct posts for the leadership of the organization--the post of chairman and the post of secretary general. They are to be elected from the prominent personalities of the solidarity movement on the basis of the proposals of the headquarters state [dawlat al-maqarr]. The secretary general and the permanent secretariat of the conference will be elected by the AAPSO conference or its council.

The council [presumably the subcommittee] also approved the possibility of membership in the organization for solidarity organizations in Western Europe and North America. These organizations will be concerned basically with the causes of African and Asian peoples and militant solidarity against imperialism. The resolution also approved that the presidium be formed from the chairman and seven deputy chairmen and the organization's secretary general, and that the 26 members of the secretariat be drawn from the member countries of the organization.

The radio team covering the AAPSO conference said that the resolution was passed unanimously after discussion by the delegations in the committee. A number of organizations and committees have been accepted as members of the AAPSO.

A new organization presidium has been elected and it will be headed by 'Abd ra-Rahman ash-Sharqawi and seven deputy chairmen.

A new organization secretariat has been elected under the leadership of 'Abd ra-Rahman ash-Sharqawi and Nuri 'Abd ar-Razzaq as secretary general for the organization.

MENA REPORTS ON 'ALI TALKS, ADDRESS IN DENMARK

Talks With Danish Leaders

NC251632 Cairo MENA in English 1510 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] Copenhagen, 25 Mar (MENA)--Danish Premier Anker Jorgensen expressed today his appreciation for President Anwar as-Sadat's policy and Egypt's role in the Middle East area. The Danish people, Jorgensen added, view with admiration President as-Sadat's steps and contacts and that they are ready to work for boosting the peace process.

This came during the 30-minute meeting the Danish premier held with Egyptian Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali who is currently visiting here.

'Ali held today a series of meetings and intensive contacts with other senior officials here.

Following the Danish premier's meeting with Kamal Hasan 'Ali, talks were held here today between Egypt and Denmark. 'Ali headed the Egyptian side to the talks, while the Danish foreign minister headed the Danish side to the talks. Talks started with 30-minute bilateral meeting between the heads of the two delegations. Talks held between the two delegations dealt with various international issues of joint interest foremost among which is the Middle East crisis. 'Ali expounded the various developments in the current situation regarding the issue.

The Egyptian side to the talks includes Foreign Under Secretary Amin Sami, Egyptian Ambassadoress to Denmark Dr 'A'ishah Ratib and Director of the Minister's Office Mahmoud Fathi. The Danish side to the talks includes the Danish ambassador in Cairo and three officials of Foreign Ministry.

Talks between the Egyptian and Danish sides lasted for about two hours and a half, after which the Danish foreign minister said that the talks were very important and that the viewpoints of the two parties were identical.

The Danish foreign minister pointed out that Kamal Hasan 'Ali expounded during the talks the developments of the Middle East situation and the completion of the process of Camp David. The Danish foreign minister said that discussions also dealt with the participation of the troops of the northern states in the multi-national force that will supervise the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai in April 1982. The Danish foreign minister pointed out that he could not give a direct answer to 'Ali as this issue needs further discussion and study.

The Danish foreign minister said that he informed 'Ali that he will submit this issue during the meeting of the northern states at the foreign ministers level on March 21 and April 1. The Danish foreign minister pointed out that he informed 'Ali of the results of the European summit meeting, especially what is pertaining to the Middle East.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali told pressmen that the talks included a comprehensive interview of the international situation in general and the Middle East situation in particular as well as possibilities of achieving peace in the Middle East on the basis of the Camp David accords and the European initiative. He added that there has been complete understanding between the two sides during the talks which also discussed what took place at the recent European summit concerning the Middle East issue and the report submitted by Dutch Foreign Minister Christoph van der Klaauw on his tour and talks in a number of Middle East countries. The deputy premier and foreign minister said that the talks also dealt with the North-South dialogue, the Polish problem and some African issues as well as the Palestinian issue.

Following the official talks the foreign ministers of the two countries signed an agreement on technical cooperation providing for the exchange of experts and technicians in all technical fields and increasing the number of Danish experts in the field of technology for Egypt as well as in the various cultural fields.

Banquet Address

NC260600 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Denmark, 25 Mar (MENA)--Danish Foreign Minister Kjeld Olesen gave a dinner banquet this evening in honor of Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and the accompanying delegation. The two ministers exchanged addresses during the dinner which was attended by senior Danish statesmen.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said Egypt welcomed and was looking forward to the visit to be paid by the Danish queen mother to Egypt. He expressed the hope that peace will prevail in the Middle East region--the peace whose basis was laid by President as-Sadat in his historic initiative.

He lauded Denmark's stance in supporting Egypt's peace efforts and its role in serving peace as shown by its positive role in contributing to the peacekeeping operations in the Middle East region. He pointed out that Denmark, proceeding from its sincere support of the peace efforts, could positively contribute to the peacekeeping process in our area in the coming years.

He lauded Denmark's role within the European group, particularly in the issuance of the Venice declaration. He said: Our hope is great that this declaration will be a very effective support for the peace efforts in the area and will complement what had been reached so far in the Camp David accords.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: We in Egypt believe that peace and security could not be established in Europe while the continent's southern borders are being exposed to the repercussions of the tension in the Mediterranean basin, which links our two continents: Thus, we cannot expect a stable and durable peace in our area while peace in Europe is being exposed to danger. In the light of the strong link between peace in Europe and peace in the Middle East, Egypt welcomes the Eruopean role in the peace process in our area. Referring to the European-Arab dialogue, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that Egypt pins extreme importance on this dialogue and that it believes that for it to take place it should be a real dialogue among all the sides, and we have received with appreciation the decision which the European parliament took in February in this regard.

'Ali lauded the talks he had in Copenhagen and said: There was an identity of stances and views on various international issues and Egypt's belief in the need for equality among all states, for supporting the United Nations and for resorting to peaceful means and dialogue for solving international problems.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said that Egypt strongly denounces all kinds of foreign interference in the internal affairs of other countries and that Egypt viewed with uneasiness the attempts to impose tutelage on the African peoples and interfere in their internal affairs, as well as the foreign military presence in Africa. Egypt denounces the policy of racial discrimination and attaches great importance to the continuation of the North-South dialogue for reaching a common understanding in the sphere of economic cooperation between them.

Referring to Egypt's signing of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, 'Ali said: We hope that this step will be an impetus for fraternal action in the area for joining the treaty, so as to make it possible to achieve the idea of keeping the Middle East a nuclear arms-free region.

'Ali said that Egypt adheres to the right of self-determination for all the peoples of the world and that it believes that preventing any people from exercising this right will create tension in the world and threaten the security not only of this people but of all the other neighboring peoples as well.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali a firmed that without recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, there will be no hope in a real solution for the current situation in the Middle East or for the regrettable conflict between its peoples, and there will be no guarantee for the security of the area's people, including Israeli security.

At the end of his address 'Ali referred to the bilateral relations between the two countries and their joint cooperation, particularly in the cultural and economic spheres.

NAWFAL LEAVES TO CONVEY AS-SADAT MESSAGE IN LAGOS

NC251405 Cairo MENA in English 1215 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mar (MENA)--Secretary General of the Constituent Assembly of the Islamic and Arab Peoples League Dr. Sayyid Nawfal left here at noon today for Lagos. In a pre-departure statement, Nawfal said he carries a message from President Anwar as-Sadat to Nigerian President Shehu Shagari, adding that he will also convey the president's greetings to the Nigerian people and the Islamic associations members in the league. Dr. Nawfal further said that during his visit to Nigeria, he will hold contacts with officials there and exchange viewpoints over the league's future plan of action and President as-Sadat's call to set up a common Arab and Islamic market and parliament affiliated to the league.

The Egyptian official added that during his week-long stay in Nigeria he will attend the inauguration of the Islamic center set up by the "Nur ad-Din" Islamic association in Lagos, which includes a hospital, and a mosque to teach the holy Koran and Arabic.

MAY REPORTS NPUG PLANS FOR PROTEST IN CAIRO

LD260851 Cairo MAY in Arabic 23 Mar 81 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Without Comment"]

[Text] MAY has learned that the Grouping Party [the National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party] is currently formulating a plan to engage in suspect moves inside the international industrial fair in Cairo. The plan includes the formation of small groups from party committees in east Cairo, As-Sayyidah Zaynab and Hulwan, which have Marxist tendencies and claim to be Nasirites, to be present at the fair on a certain date to be agreed upon in order to distribute a party statement attacking peace and the normalization of relations with Israel. The plan also includes the distribution of leaflets in various areas in Cairo and to paste these leaflets on walls in the Cairo and Aluizah areas.

HAMMADI REITERATES READINESS TO CEASE FIRE

JN252124 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi has stressed Iraq's stand which calls for ceasing fire on condition that Iran recognizes Iraq's legitimate rights to its territorial lands and waters and returns the three Arab islands to their legitimate owners. At a press conference in Tunis today, he said that Iraq's situation is much better today than at the beginning of war. He added that Iraq is today witnessing a state of advanced national awakening. He praised the Jordanian stand, describing it as a genuine Arab stand.

On Iraq's international relations, Dr Sa'dun Hammadi said that they are good and fruitful with most countries.

Talking about relations among the Arab countries and the stand toward the Arab-Zionist conflict, he said that Iraq's principled stand was and will remain that of nonrecognition of the Zionist entity no matter how much time passes. At the same time he said: We are committed to the Baghadad summit resolutions.

ARMED FORCES GENERAL COMMAND COMMUNIQUE 286

JN251710 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA)--Iraqi ground fire downed an enemy Phantom plane when it tried to raid the Umm Qasr region in Al-Basrah Governorate in southern Iraq today. Communique No 286 issued by the Armed Forces General Command said that known Persian enemy losses yesterday evening and today were 83 dead, 1 infantry position, 4 armored personnel carriers, 5 vehicles, 1 observation post and 1 Phantom plane. The following is the text of Communique No 286 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our armed forces continued to pound the racist Persian enemy in the various operations sectors yesterday evening and today, with the following results:

I. Known enemy losses:

A. One of our advanced units' forces clashed with an enemy infantry group in the Nowsud region and forced the enemy to flee after sustaining 24 dead.
B. Three were killed and one infantry position and one vehicle were destroyed in the Sar-e Pol-e Zahab region.
C. Six were killed in the Gilan-e Gharb region.
D. An enemy troop concentration was sighted opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd. Our forces opened fire and forced the enemy to flee, leaving behing 23 dead. Our forces also destroyed one enemy observation post in the same region.
E. One vehicle was destroyed in the Mehran region.
F. Four were killed in the Dezful region.
G. One of our units clashed with an enemy force in the Shush region and forced it to retreat, killing 15 and destroying 2 armored personnel carriers.
H. One armored personnel carrier was destroyed in the Ahvaz region.
I. Eight were killed and one armored personnel carrier and three vehicles, one of which was carrying ammunition, were destroyed in the Abadan region.
J. Our capable forces pounded their military targets in Shahabad, Ahvaz, Dezful and Ilam yesterday afternoon.
K. This morning two enemy Phantom planes tried to raid the Umm Qasr region in the Al-Basrah Governorate, but our ground fire intercepted them and shot down one of them.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 83 dead, 1 infantry position, 4 armored personnel carriers, 5 vehicles, 1 observation post and 1 Phantom plane.

II. Our losses:

A. In personnel: 17 Martyrs in all sectors.
B. In equipment: One vehicle, one mortar, four rocket launchers and one armored vehicle were damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 25 March 1981

DEPUTY PREMIER LEAVES FOR NOUAKCHOTT 25 MAR

JN251623 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 25 Mar (INA)--Tariq 'Aziz, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, left Baghdad for Nouakchott this afternoon as an envoy of President Saddam Husayn to Mauritanian President Lt Col Khouna Ould Haydala. In a statement to INA before departing, 'Aziz said that he will convey an oral message from President Saddam Husayn to President Haydala reiterating Iraq's pride in its fraternal relations with Mauritania and Iraq's concern over Mauritania's independence and security and its continued effective participation in the Arabs' fateful causes.

KURDISH LEADER PRAISES IRAQ'S SUPPORT FOR IRANIANS

JN201047 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Mar (INA)--'Abd as-Sattar Tahir Sharif, the secretary general of the Kurdish Revolutionary Party, has welcomed President Saddam Husayn's declaration that Iraq is prepared to extend help to all the Iranian peoples aspiring to obtain their rights, including self-rule.

In an interview published by ATH-THAWRAH here today, the Kurdish politician described the declaration as a noble humanitarian position. He added that all the Iranian peoples must determine their future and must prepare themselves to exercise their legitimate national rights. He reiterated that the revolution in Iraq is a support for these peoples, adding that this revolution is not asking anything in return for this support, such as exploiting a weak people who are defending their right, existence and fate. Rather, this revolution's support is meant to confirm this people's freedom to determine their future.

'Abd as-Sattar Tahir Sharif reiterated the cohesion between the Kurdish and Arab peoples in Iraq. He said: As elements, parties and masses, we deeply believe that the Iraqi national unity and the military cohesion are in the interest of Iraq's sons, both Arabs and Kurds. Consequently, they are in the interest of the entire progressive movement in the area as well as of the Arab nation's progress and development.

Sharif pointed out that the Iranian regime has disappointed the Kurdish people, who contributed to overthrowing the shah's regime. The Iranian regime has failed to achieve any of the great aspirations the Kurds had dreamed of achieving, foremost of which is their national and legitimate rights. He said: Following the uprising of the Iranian peoples, the Kurdish people in Iran were surprised to find a more racist, reactionary and intransigent regime than that of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi. The Khomeyni regime has turned down the Kurdish people's humler demands which represent the basic national rights within the framework of self-rule. This regime has slaughtered thousands of the Kurdish people's sons as part of its annihilation campaigns.

The secretary general of the Kurdish Revolutionary Party said that the Iranian Kurdish fighters consider the revolution in Iraq led by the Ba'th Party as the strong mainstay of their revolution. He added that this support constitutes an encouraging factor for the Iranian people's uprising against the racist Persian regime and will enable them to continue to demand their legitimate and national rights by means of armed popular struggle so long as the Khomeyni regime continues to ignore and disavow these humanitarian rights and continues its vile war against Iraq.

RADIO COMMENTS ON HAFIZ AL-ASAD'S ICATU SPEECH

JN252123 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Unattributed commentary: "Initial Reading of Hafiz al-Asad's Speech"]

[Excerpts] It was not surprising that President Hafiz al-Asad grasped the first opportunity in an attempt to minimize the impact of the irrefutable facts which Al-Husayn included in his speech on the Al-Karamah anniversary. The way President Hafiz al-Asad tried to bypass facts only discloses the worries filling the head of the Syrian regime as he watches his and his regime's role being undressed in front of the Syrian people, these people who have suffered badly under him, and in front of the Arab people, who are beginning to realize the situation in Syria after a period of dubious silence in which the world media has participated. If President Hafiz al-Asad has to disclose anything, it will show the depth of the crisis of confidence in his regime inside Syria. President al-Asad himself condemned his regime and his style of governing, in which he said he was forced to confront what he calls the conspiracy by depending more on the armed formations of the people's organizations, as he claims.

Why does President Hafiz al-Asad's regime need all these armed formations and against whom is he massing them? Does not this reflect the size of the worsening conditions and the opposition forces, forces which have made him mass all these armed formations? Did all these armed formations move toward the Golan front, or were they formed to instigate a part of the Syrian people against the majority who reject the Al-Asad regime and his practices?

In fact, we are happy to see that Hafiz al-Asad knows Al-Husayn's speech by heart because this shows how much he fears the truth. Al-Husayn's speech and the facts it contains have caused the cautious Hafiz al-Asad to lose his temper. Therefore, he was forced to lie about well-known basic political and military facts until he gradually lost the appearance of reserve behind which he usually hides his true manner. Eventually, his ugly face appeared and he even resorted to cheap bickering and obscene words which the ordinary man will shun. Thus, he showed his hidden reality, which has been covered by the appearances of governing.

We are satisfied with the fact that the reality of the manners of the head of the Syrian regime and the reality of the regime's clique and practices are exposed to the people inside Syria. It is also satisfactory that the Arab citizen realizes that the size of the falsifications in Al-Asad's speech reflects the regime's panic and confusion, which has forced the head of this regime to falsify facts by engulfing it all with words that repel all who have manners and ethics. President Hafiz al-Asad was unable to hide his shortcomings in 1967 because in his capacity then as defense minister and commander of the air force, he was one of those responsible for making the political and military decisions. Yet he excused himself by saying that others had their own shortcomings.

Facts that cannot be hidden, falsifications, disregard of facts and reason: These are the characteristics of Hafiz al-Asad's shaky speech. We will work in the direction of exposing the size of the falsifications and disregard of truth in Al-Asad's speech in future talks. The truth remains that the armed organizations of the ruling regime's supporters which Al-Asad mentioned, will not be able to protect the factional and sectarian regime from the Syrian people's wrath. No matter how well Hafiz al-Asad's regime hides behind the armed formations which are aimed against the bosoms of the Syrian people, the Syrian people's free will is going to survive. All those armies, organizations and armed formations will not help Hafiz al-Asad confront the Syrian people's will and will fail to hide the congruity between Al-Asad regime's role and that of Zionism or to cover the reality of the Syrian people's stand on the regime and its corruption and deviation.

ADF STATEMENT ON BA'LABAKK, BEIRUT INCIDENTS

NC251248 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 25 Mar 81

[25 March statement by military spokesman of the Arab Deterrent Forces command--read by announcer]

[Text] After the calm which prevailed in Ba'labakk in the wake of the intervention of the Arab Deterrent Forces [ADF] with their reinforced mobile patrols and the setting up of permanent barriers, early this morning unknown people blew up a house belonging to a member of the (Al-Murtada) family in the city. This has led to the return of tension and the resumption of clashes in the quarter where the explosion took place between the two warring parties. The situation deteriorated further at about 1100 today. There were casualties, some of whom were seriously injured.

The ADF units in the city were reinforced with new units and a senior military officer was asked to move to Ba'labakk to deal with the situation quickly and firmly and to apply the measures decided upon at yesterday's meeting.

The situation began to improve at 1230.

Regarding the situation in the commercial center in Beirut, sniper fire was exchanged this morning between armed men in the Empire and the Riyad as'Sulh Square. A number of rockets were also fired. The responsible ADF quarters intervened and prevented the escalation of this incident into a general clash. The situation then returned to normal. However, isolated shots can still be heard from time to time, and the ADF forces are still tackling the situation.

ADF GIVES ULTIMATUM TO ORGANIZATIONS IN BA'LABAKK

NC260901 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Severe tension prevails in Ba'labakk where a majority of the gunmen remain in their positions while the Arab Deterrent Forces complete their deployment.

The material losses in the town were reportedly great: The damaged buildings include the Episcopal Catholic school, the homes of Dr (Salim Ghurra) and Deputy (Subhi Yaghi), the Green Project buildings, Casino Ra's al-'Ayn, the government hospital and the Al-Barbarah church.

It has been learned that the Arab Deterrent Forces command has issued a 48-hour ultimatum for the closure of all the offices of the Iraqi Ba'th Party and those of the Palestinian organizations in Ba'labakk.

LEADERS APPROVE ARMY DEPLOYMENT PLAN IN SOUTH

NC251736 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] The practical plan for the dispatch of the army to the south was approved at an expanded meeting held prior to the Cabinet meeting today and attended by the military command.

It was learned this afternoon that the dispatch of the army to the south will take place in stages, beginning with the area under the UNIFIL control, and in coordination with the UNIFIL command.

It is known that UNIFIL commander General Callaghan wants the UN forces to assume their responsibilities and to fully and correctly implement the UN Security Council resolutions in order to return the south up to the international borders to the authority of the Lebanese Government.

Before the Cabinet meeting today President Ilyas Sarkis held a meeting with Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan during which they discussed the security and political developments and the general situation in the south. The meeting was later joined by Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus, Defense Minister Joseph Skaf, army commander Gen Victor Khuri, chief of Staff Maj Gen Munir Tarabay and Lebanon's permanent UN delegate Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni. During this expanded meeting the discussion dealt with the developments in the south and the practical plan for the dispatch of the Lebanese Army to the south.

Al-Wazzan Comments

NC251810 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] After the Cabinet meeting today Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan was asked about the decisions taken by the expanded meeting attended by the military command. He said:

[Begin recording] All I can say in this respect is that his excellency the president met with Lebanon's ambassador to the United Nations in the presence of the foreign minister and the military command. I took part in this meeting. We met to discuss the necessary arrangements for implementation of the decision regarding the dispatch of the army to the south. In the first stage this will involve the area under UNIFIL control. There was agreement in views on all matters pertaining to this. We hope that the arrangements will be put into effect soon.

[Question] Has any practical plan been approved following the contacts with the Arab Deterrent Forces command?

[Al-Wazzan] Of course, when I say that the discussion dealt with the arrangements, arrangements mean practical steps.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, the security situation today deteriorated [words indistinct] in the commercial center and the Sodeco [words indistinct].

[Al-Wazzan] We have been seeing for some time that the security situation has been deteriorating here and there. I have already stated that whenever we approach the issue of national accord we find that this matter provokes some to sabotage this accord and to prevent us from achieving it. All that we can do is to continue our efforts and contacts in order to achieve security and accord. We have a responsibility in this regard, and all those working on the Lebanese arena have a responsibility, too. The people are alert and are following all matters. They are aware of all the facts. We must maintain our alertness and awareness to overcome all obstacles. [end recording]

AL-ASAD'S ICATU SPEECH REPUDIATES HUSAYN REMARKS

JN250831 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1814 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Speech by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions in the ICATU Conference Hall in Damascus on 24 March 1981--live]

[Excerpts] Brother Secretary General of ICATU, brothers and friends, dear guests: On this day 25 years ago in the city of Damascus, a torch was lit on the path of Arab struggle to play its increasing and rapid role in spearheading and broadening the nation's struggle to achieve its objectives and in dissipating the world of darkness that had enveloped the nation for a long time. That torch, which was born and lighted on this day 25 years ago, was your confederation, the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions. [applause] The birth of the confederation was a historic turning point in the struggle of the Arab workers and of the Arab nation. It was also a very important pillar in bolstering and promoting the workers movement in the world and in fighting imperialism and exploitation in all their forms and manifestations in the Arab arena in particular and in the international arena, through cooperation with the workers of the world, in general.

The unity of Arab workers is strength for Arab toilers--hence the importance of the edifice you founded on 24 March 1956. [applause] I extend my greetings to you, Arab workers, everywhere in our great Arab homeland. [applause] In the name of your people in Syria, I extend our congratulations to your general secretariat and to every one of you on your silver jubilee. March ahead, brother Arab workers, consolidated, united and unweakened by storms until you achieve victory for your nation's just causes at home and abroad and until right and justice are achieved, injustice and exploitation are eliminated and the banner of productive toilers is raised everywhere in this world. I am sure you will be playing an important role in all of this. [applause]

Our Syrian worker class is also celebrating the 43d anniversary of the foundation of its organization. It has postponed the celebration from 18 March, which is the foundation day, to this day so it can celebrate both occasions on the same day: the 25th anniversary of its pan-Arab organization and the 43d of its national Syrian organization. [applause] This is out of our Syrian workers class' feeling of the importance of such a gathering on this occasion.

Brothers, the Syrian worker class is the vanguard of our national and pan-Arab struggle. It is also the vanguard of the struggle for defending the rights of the toilers and for achieving success and victory for the toilers' issues. Our workers, and their peasant brothers, were in the vanguard of the national struggle against imperialism. They sacrificed waves of martyrs. They never weakened in their struggle until imperialism was forced out of the country. Afterward they continued with the same determination and clear farsightedness to fight the vestiges of imperialism. Thus, through its efforts, determination and sacrifices, our worker class has been able to assume its natural place in running its own affairs as well as the affairs of the whole country. [applause] Thus also, our worker class, through cooperation with the peasant masses, has been able to establish a qualified and responsible popular authority capable of making economic, cultural and political decisions [applause] and following up the implementation of these decisions. It forms the backbone of the leading party and legislative authority in the country. It is the basis of all the higher executive councils in the country. Furthermore, it is essentially the unquestioned decision makers on matters dealing with workers and the land. [applause and cheers]

Still, I cannot claim that we have achieved the final objective of wiping out the existence of reaction and that we are now safe from all its attacks and dangers. I cannot claim that, but I can say that we have covered considerable ground toward this end.

We are now able to strongly and effectively confront all possible reactionary attacks. This has been proved by the events that followed the Camp David accords and the As-Sadat-Israeli treaty, which are part of the U.S.-Zionist plan. The remnants of Syrian reaction, which consist of old feudalists and the Muslim Brotherhood, have been helped by Arab reactionaries surrounding Syria under a carefully studied plan which gave roles to reactionaries at home and abroad. The idea is that they will coordinate their plans against the enemies of the Camp David accords and the U.S.-Zionist plan as well as the pan-Arab socialist progressive forces by striking at patriotic and pan-Arab socialist and progressive Syria, which is hostile to imperialism, Zionism and their agents and which is strongly opposing the Camp David accords. [applause]

The Syrian people rose in self-defense and defeated the agents. Thus, the hopes and dreams of the planners, backers and intruders, including imperialists, Zionists and Arab reactionaries, have fizzled out. I say that we are, and must be, confident, but clearly not arrogant. Therefore, we will continue to be alert to any possible new plots. We will take everything into consideration and continue to be ready to confront such plots with all the necessary determination. We will continue to hold the initiative in facing any possible reactionary plots from whatever source, whether at home or abroad. [applause]

We will take into consideration that the plotting against Syria and Arab Steadfastness Front forces will continue to exist so long as Syria and the Arab steadfastness partners do not succumb to the U.S.-Zionist scheme in the area. The primary objectives of this scheme are to liquidate Arab struggle against the Zionist invasion and to liquidate the Arab-Israeli conflict in favor of Israel, world Zionism and U.S. imperialism and to clinch this deal with the well-known Zionist seal.

When we recall the reactionary plotting and the liquidation of the Arab-Israeli conflict by means of the Zionist standard of judging, we must mention the Jordanian reactionary regime, becuase this regime is the traditional racehorse on which every imperialist scheme against the area in general and the Palestinian issue in particular wagers. This regime handed vast areas of Palestine over to the Israelis. These areas were under this regime's control in 1948. The Palestinian people are in general well aware of this fact. Everybody recalls well how this regime had completely handed Lod and Ramla to the Israelis without any fighting. I believe there is no need to give more examples. This same regime handed the whole West Bank, including Jerusalem, over to the Israelis in 1967 without allowing the heroic Jordanian Army to exercise its role in defending against the Israeli advance. It is strange that Husayn should dare to speak at length in a speech a few days ago on the 1967 war as if he were a courageous struggler and stubborn fighter in this war.

I had not wanted to say anything about the 1967 war. Since 1967 I have not uttered one single word about this war because I did not want to hurt anyone, even those responsible, in the hope that we in the future might achieve the minimum of a successfull collective Arab confrontation against our enemy in occupied Palestine. Nothing has so far been recorded in history about the 1967 war. I said nothing was written in history because I believe that the recording of history should be objective and of a scientific nature, mentioning facts with honesty and accuracy. I did not want to speak at length about the 1967 war, but I was dragged into it by that parasite's words about everything to do with the issue of Palestine and that of the Arabs.

Brothers, the 1967 war is an Arab tragedy. All of us are responsible for its results. There is no one of us who did not fail. There is not a single Arab who did not fail, I mean here the Arab leaders. There is not a single Arab leader who did not fail. All of them are responsible for the results of the 1967 war. The shortcomings are multi-faceted and have various branches.

It is difficult, under the circumstances, to analyze or outline the aspects of these shortcomings and to enumerate and assess their branches. Briefly, I can say that the results of 1967 are not impossible to be objective about if we consider the objective factors that constituted the war elements in 1967. This is our history and we must not treat it unjustly. It is not that important that an official here or there should or should not be brought to account. This matter is important but it is not the basis. What is important is that we should know this generation and that our future generations should know the facts. We must learn from the lessons. We must learn from our experiments, sacrifices and victims in our continuous life march.

Why are the results not impossible objectively? We say that the Arabs are used to always repeating: Why are we defeated at a time when we number 150 million and Israel numbers 3 million Jews who immigrated to Palestine from various other places. The Arab citizen must understand that those 3 million were offering the same and sometimes more to battle and the fight against the Arabs, in terms of size and manpower, than we had offered up to 1967. Now I do not remember the exact figures, but I remember approximately the number of soldiers and armed forces. I repeat that these are approximate figures. Egypt had 180,000 soldiers in active service. These of course include officers, NCO's and privates. Syria had about 60,000 soldiers in active service. Jordan had about 50,000 soldiers in active service. Israel had about 300,000 soldiers. After all this, can we say that we, 150 million strong, are facing 3 million? This is deception. Brothers, these approximate figures and ratios have now changed to a great extent. There is no room for comparison between what is taking place now and what took place in 1967. However, I am talking about an approximation of what was taking place in 1967.

If we are to compare the number of tanks and planes available to us with those available to Israel, we will find that they are in the same proportion as the number of troops. Of course, we also had reserve forces here in Syria and in Egypt. But if we had failed in training, rehabilitating and equipping the regular armed forces, what could be said of the reservists, who were sitting in their homes?

Speaking objectively, the loss of the war was not impossible. But this does not extricate us from the responsibility for failing in our duties. All of us must be brought to account in light of one factor, namely, did we use this force well? Did we fight with valor? Did we fight honestly and sincerely? In light of this we must be brought to account. Also in light of this actions and men are judged.

I can say sincerely that the Arabs have also failed in this, particularly those on the confrontation lines. Also I am not defending anyone nor am I defending our leadership in Syria or our officers in the Syrian Army. The discussion does not revolve around failure, but discussion is essential when a comparison is made between the parties of the confrontation lines, particularly, as I said, when the king of kings dares to say that he is the hero of heroes and not the hero of falsehood.

The Syrian front fought from the very beginning of the war and until the end of the war. We fought with all our might. Our front was never quiet throughout the 6 days. Combat activities were continuous in every part of the front. These included offensive and defensive operations, attack and retreat and the exchange of fire on the ground and in the air.

To begin with, when we say, or when it was said that it was a 6-day war, it was the Syrian front which continued to fight for 6 days. I say this sincerely while I am in pain, in pain because this cannot be a source of pride to an Arab citizen in the least. It is absolutely impossible for this to be the source of our pride. However, it is necessary to reveal lies and falsifications.

In spite of this, our front was ablaze, the Syrian front was ablaze, both on land and in the air. When we found that the Israeli enemy was advancing in Jerusalem and on the West Bank, we sent a unit comprising our best forces and officers to contribute to halting the enemy's advance. This did not affect the continuation of fighting on our front with the enemy. We sent this unit at a time when all our relations with the Jordanian regime had collapsed, to such an extent that we could not move these forces until after we had sent an officer from here. All those whom I speak of are alive and present. We sent an officer to Jordan to contact 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad there and to contact the Jordanian command so that we would be allowed to go to Jordan.

At a time when our front was being shelled by Israeli planes, we pulled part of our forces out from the heart of the front. This force moved toward Jordan under bombing from Israeli planes and it was hit more than once by the enemy air force on the way, inside both the Syrian and the Jordanian borders.

We did not do what Husayn did. We did not try to delude the Arab nation or the Syrian people by sending a brigade to Jordan and saying to the people and the nation's masses: We have gone to Jordan to fight the Israelis while leaving the Israelis secure and at peace while confronting our soldiers. We did not do this as Husayn did in 1973. He sent us a brigade, and the Jordanian Army, with its five divisions, stood by, watching the Arabs' great war of this era against the worst, most vicious and most dangerous enemy of our Arab nation. We sent a force to Jordan to confront the Israelis there while we continued to strongly and violently confront the Israelis over here.

Once again I say, brothers, that throughout past years, we have not spoken of this issue, because we did not find anything in it to make us proud. We did not speak because we did not find anything about it to make us hold our heads high. I do not speak of it now in order to say that what happened calls for pride. I am forced to repeat this: What happened does not call for pride. However, within the context of relativity, within the context of comparing the quarters of confrontation, there was an honorable, struggling fighter, believing in the nation and insisting on vanquishing the enemy, and there was a defeatist, collaborating conspirator, who was carrying out the orders of the Israelis through his Western masters, especially the United States of America.

The Jordanian Army did not fight in 1967. The Palestinian citizens in the West Bank saw this for themselves. I myself have heard this from scores of Palestinian citizens. I myself have heard this said by Jordanian officers. The Jordanian Army did not fight, except for those military personel who were capable of being impelled by their emotions to carry out some operations; but the Jordanian Army, as an army, did not fight the Israelis in 1967. This was our information in the Syrian Army command at the time. This is what was said and seen by the Palestinian citizens, especially those who were near the positions of the Jordanian forces. However, I will not merely stop at what we know. Let us listen to 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad. I would very much have liked not to mention 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad, because he is no longer alive.

'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad came to Jordan. Was this because there were no officers in Jordan qualified enough to lead the battle of the Jordanian Army? The Jordanian Army has qualified officers who are capable of leading the battle if they are so ordered. Did 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad come to Jordan because the Jordanian Army, or because the position of the battle in Jordan, was more important than the position of the battle in Syria or in other places? The answer is also no. It is certain that each of you may very simply deduce why 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad came. 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad came to Jordan because no one believed that the Jordanian political leadership would take the war seriously, so he came in the hope of making the issue serious.

'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad, who was introduced as the person who had come to Jordan to lead the battle of the Jordanian Army against Israel, said to me: I did not lead the battle of the Jordanian Army. 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad said: I did not lead the battle of the Jordanian Army, but was to be a false witness.

I gave orders, but they were not carried out. They would give orders behind my back. The map in front of me would indicate the position of this or that brigade. I made decisions according to the positions in which the Jordanian Army was deployed. Then they would come and tell me that the positions had changed. We would make a decision in light of the new positions. A little while later, they would say the positions had changed, and so on. The Jordanian Army surrendered the West Bank, but is guiltless because this was the decision of the Jordanian king. These words were said to me by 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad when I was defense minister. He also said them to the Syrian military command, and he repeated them more than once so that no one would say that the issue was between myself and 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad. He said them to Gen Mustafa Talas, who was chief of staff of the Syrian Army. Talas is alive, and any Arab citizen can go to Mustafa Talas and ask him.

'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad also said this to staff Maj Gen 'Awwad Bagh, who was deputy defense minister at the time. Bagh is in Damascus and anyone can go to him and ask him if 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad had indeed told him so. Furthermore, he said this to staff Maj Gen Yusuf Shakkur, who was chief of operations in the Syrian Army at the time. Shakkur is now our ambassador in Paris. Therefore, anyone can go and ask retired Maj Gen Husuf Shakkur about this story.

'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad did not tell his story just once, but several times. I heard that he has told the story to other political officials, but I will not mention them. Those I have just cited are sufficient to verify the story. 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad said: This was what they did to me. They literally gave away the West Bank. The time will come when I will definitely write all of this down for history.

All this was known to us in Syria even before 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad told his story. It was also known to many of our Palestinian and Jordanian brothers. At any rate, this was the story told by 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad, who was a renowned Arab soldier. We were all grieved when 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad fell in the service of national duty. Therefore, can a person with such a traitorous past have the right to say that Syria had failed its duty in the 1967 war? We admit that we lost the war both as Syrians and Arabs. We also admit that we failed. Perhaps, we should have properly prepared and equipped ourselves and even followed a better mobilization plan. But we did not fail in one thing; we fought courageously. We did not slacken or hesitate. We were not in collusion with the enemy or any quarter in the world against our nation's cause. [applause]

One of the brothers has just told me something I did not know. He said that the gist of what I have just said was published by the late Ahmad ash-Shuqayri [former PLO leader] in his memoirs. This is another proof. This brother also says that the memoirs can be bought in any bookstore.

The propaganda of the reactionaries after the 1967 war kept asking why fortified and impregnable Golan had fallen. Even Husayn, son of his father, asked this question several days ago. Husayn did not ask himself why, or wonder why, the West Bank had fallen. I am sorry I have not had the chance to visit the West Bank. I only know it on the map. But the West Bank is also a mountain stronghold which has many advantages over the Golan. The Golan is about 1,100 square km, while the West Bank is more than 5,000 square km. As I recall the population of the Golan at the time was about 170,000, while the population of our kinfolk in the West Bank was more than 1 million. All these were additional elements of strength for whomever wanted to fight and defend the West Bank against the Israeli enemy.

Once again I say that we in Syria had failed, but we fought as much as we could and with all the means in our power. We gave arms to our citizens in the Golan area. Did King Husayn give arms to the West Bank people so that they could defend themselves? Maybe some of you here come from the Golan area. I recall that we distributed 12,000 weapons to the civilians there. How many weapons did Husayn distribute among the West Bank population, which was more than 1 million? He did not give a single revolver. As a matter of fact, he disarmed some people to show his devotion to the Israeli cause.

In any case I am not taking Husayn to task because we lost the West Bank, but because he did not fight to defend it and did not give arms to the population. He must account for all this. It is possible for a powerful force to overrun any stronghold. But did he give all he had? Did he fight with all the means in his power? The main thing is to fight regardless of the final outcome.

I do not want to go any further, but Husayn said in his recent speech that he always used to give us military advice. [laughter] Husayn asked us to unify our ideology and to benefit from our past experiences. I know that Husayn has the rank of marshal. You must have seen him in uniform. But I also know that he has not gone through any training. He has not been out in the desert, mountains or forests. He has not crawled on the ground. In short, he does not know the real life of a soldier. His experience is confined to wearing military uniforms and acquiring higher military ranks. He became marshal by birthright [laughter and applause] just as he is king by birthright. He is a formidable force.

To be fair, the man has acquired some military experience. I know that he has some military experience, but only in hunting down Palestinian citizens and fedayeen in the streets of Amman, not in confronting the Israeli Army. He has such experience. This reminds me of something I heard him say. Husayn says he was extremely grieved by our losses in the October 1973 war. He says: Hafiz al-Asad said that they lost 10,000 martyrs and about 2,000 tanks. This is indeed sorrowful. Husayn was very sorry because the results of the October war did not justify those losses.

The October war was not only a turning point in the history of the Arabs but also in the history of the world. According to his view, the results of this war were not important or satisfactory. He was pained at the deaths or martyrdom of 10,000 or our sons in Syria. But he was not pained at the deaths of thousands of Palestinian fedayeen, citizens, women and children in September [1970] and in 'Ajlun later. According to his views, the deaths of these were essential from the nationalist, patriotic and humanitarian point of view. I do not know the figures. Some said that he had killed 25,000. I heard this figure on many occasions from Brother Yasir 'Arafat. Husayn was not pained at the deaths of 25,000 Palestinian and Jordanian citizens in Amman. He did not shed tears nor did he express any sorrow because of the great losses on the Jordanian, Arab and international levels. But the October war was a tragedy, according to him.

The October war was the peak of the Arabs' contemporary accomplishments. Nothing is equal to the October war accomplishments. This war introduced changes to the world economic trend. I said this previously. I mentioned it during the Arab summit in Rabat and during the Islamic conference in Lahore. Had it not been for the October war, the Arabs would never have regained some of their usurped rights, in the field of oil in particular. I say now, as I have said before, that one of the Arab leaders told me after the October War: For 18 months we were after the oil and oil marketing companies to agree wtih them on raising oil prices by pennies, but they refused. But after the October war we meet on any level--presidents, ministers, and heads of establishments--and raise the oil prices by dollars, as we wish. What are the changes that had emerged before and after the October war? Nothing but the October war.

The October war enabled the Arabs to seize some of their economic rights. The October war enhanced the pride of the Arabs. It is the one which placed the Arabs in their current position. This consequently was reflected on the world economy. We are not concerned with this now. The October war introduced vital changes to the basic foundations of tactics and military strategy in the East and West alike. Every world power interested in strategic military affairs studied the lessons of the October war and introduced important and essential changes which were demonstrated by the October war into its tactics, strategies and weapons. [applause]

Needless to say our morale after the October war was not the same as before the war. Every citizen in the Arab homeland, and in the confrontation states in particular, says no. The October war gave us a boundless moral momentum and a moral impetus. Israel is no longer the dreadful monster and the Israeli Army is no longer irresistable. This is a great victory, or rather a greater victory.

The attempts to abort the gains which were repeatedly and continuously made by As-Sadat, Husayn and others since the October war cannot belittle these gains and their significance. I tell Husayn: Keep your pain to yourself. You were not pained at our 10,000 martyrs. You were pained at your friends, followers and allies. We are no longer afraid of these or of their friends like you. [applause]

Husayn attacks us in Syria from time to time. Believe me, had I known that I would talk about his words, I would have brought his speech with me in order to read his sentences to you. But I am sincere and honest in pointing out his meaning. He said: From time to time we heat the atmosphere with the enemy by words and not by deeds. He also said: From time to time we sent pilots to clash with the enemy, but because they are inexperienced they are killed or martyred. Also he is pained for our pilots. He is pained for our pilots and wants to tell the Israelis and the Arabs that Syrian pilots have little experience. The imperialist-Zionist plan is to demoralize the Arab masses. It is a primary objective of their plan to demoralize us. Can anyone believe after the 1973 October war that Syrian pilots are inexperienced? Did the Western media and the Israelis themselves not speak about our experience? Furthermore, can we not tell whether we have experience or lack it?

Syrian pilots waged the October war, shot down a large number of enemy planes, defended Syrian airspace during the war and fought over Jordan, Lebanon and the Mediterranean. They did all this with valor and many of them obtained medals for heroism. [applause] Has Husayn, the son of his father, the right to attack them and accuse them of being inexperienced? Perhaps some of these pilots are the same age as Husayn. [applause]

We in Syria did not have a network of ground-based air defenses. We did not even have a missile network, except in the Damascus area. In the Damascus area there was cooperation between the air force and the ground air-defenses. Each had its role. In all the other areas however, the burden of confronting the enemy air force fell solely on Syrian pilots. [applause] Our pilots in Syria engaged the enemy over Jordan. Our pilots in Syria engaged the enemy in the skies of Lebanon hundreds of times during the war. In the middle, northern and coastal parts of Syria, the burden fell on our brave, valiant pilots, whom the king of Jordan belittles. Of course, he wants everything to be calm so that he can peddle his game and that of his masters. He wants Israel to remain secure, calm and undisturbed by anyone. Therefore, in his speech--whoever wishes can read it--he attacks our clashes with the enemy and our propaganda against the enemy. He attacks our presence in Lebanon. Moreover, and as a matter of course, he forbids fedayeen action based in Jordan, despite the Arab summit resolution and although he was part of that summit. He also attacks the establishment of Palestinian organizations after 1967 and says that these organizations had the aim of losing the Palestinian people its independence, ability and effectiveness.

He says that, following the 1967 war, the first Palestinian organization to appear, to impose itself, on the Palestinian arena was an organization that did not carry the name of Palestine and that it was called the Syrian As-Sa'iqah Organization. The first organization imposed on the Palestinian arena was the Syrian As-Sa'iqah, and he emphasizes the words, it does not carry the name of Palestine. He is extremely upset because the name is the Syrian As-Sa'iqah. I excuse him because he did not listen to Arab radios, their bulletins and what the Palestinians and the Palestinian organizations said, he would have known that we do not have an organization with that name. We do not have an As-Sa'iqah called the Syrian As'Sa'iqah, at least not since it was established. I want him to learn the name now, so that he does not repeat the mistake. It is called the Popular Liberation War Vanguards, As-Sa'iqah forces. [applause]

He is very upset because its name is the Syrian As-Sa'iqah. This is a phrase repeated by Israel. He did not get the information from its sources, from our brothers and sons. He got it from radio Israel. Therefore he learned its name as the Syrian As-Sa'iqah.

Another thing: Does this king know that, throughout history, no people has ever carried out its struggle against aggression and imperialism except through popular, party and commando or combat organizations which spring up among that people? Does he know this? What do the people of Palestine mean without their organizations? How can the people of Palestine be independent, strong and capable for the struggle against the enemy without organizations, and how can they be without their independence, ability and capability with Palestinian organizations present? Did the Algerian people fight without organizations? Did the Syrian people fight against French imperialism and even earlier without organizations? Let this king mention to us one people on this earth in any of the five continents which liberated its lands, regained usurped rights or expelled an imperialist except by means of organizations which led their struggle. King Husayn says that organizations were a means of fragmenting the Palestinian people and interfering in their internal affairs. Of course, in his own heart, he says: If it were not for these organizations, I the king, would be the sole representative of this Palestinian people. One people here or there would speak up, and their clear course would be to go to jail and hence there would be an end to the problem. In that case, the Palestinian people would be independent, their will in his hand, the hand of the king, of course. Then the Palestinian people would be able to sleep calmly without taking one shot at the Israelis. That is what King Husayn wants.

If these organizations had not sprung up, how could we have said now that the PLO represents the Palestinian people? [applause] If these organizations had not sprung up spontaneously, the king would have been the one to represent the Palestinian people and the people of Palestine would have been in the worst, weakest position.

Among all peoples, and in all homelands which are invaded or colonialized, organizations spring up which struggle against the imperialist and the invader. These organizations look for the suitable way to unify their struggle and gather their strength. This is what happened and is happening in the Palestinian arena. This is a natural law throughout this world. Does King Husayn know this, or is he ignorant of it? or does he want to fool the Arab citizens in general and the Palestinian and Jordanian citizens in particular?

He also says Syria is fragmenting the Arabs. He says that Syria is fragmenting the Arabs under the pretext of strategic balance. When we raise the slogan of military balance between us and the Israelis and assert the necessity of achieving this balance, he sees in this statement a means of fragmenting the Arabs. So, when we demand balance, we fragment the Arabs, and when we preserve the imbalance, we unify the Arabs. Exactly, brothers. That is what King Husayn says. He says that Syria wants to fragment the Arabs under the pretext of strategic balance, to internationalize the cause and make the Arabs followers of the West and East.

Of course, you have heard him during this phase repeatedly talking of Arab values, ethics, personality and other attributes. Of course we have spoken about military and strategic balance for years. This issue was broached at summit conferences. As far as I can remember, everyone stated the necessity of achieving such balance and working to achieve it through all means. Why, then, should we shun such balance? How can he understand this issue to be a division between East and West? He wants to refer to the friendship treaty concluded between Syria and the Soviet Union. [applause]

He has declared war against this treaty, because it is a basic factor in strengthening the Arab struggle in this phase and in this region. He considers the treaty a stumbling block, preventing the implementation of the plots he colluded with his American and Zionist overlords. He is against this treaty because it strengthens Syria's position against the Camp David plans and their concomitants. Furthermore, he is against the treaty because it strengthens Syria and enables it to continue to act and say with a loud voice: There will be no despair, defeatism or surrender in this region. [applause]

Husayn is against this treaty because it strengthens us and enables us to say to him and others: We are not with you but with the peoples. We are not with you but with the Arab masses and their cause. [applause] We will fight in the ranks and vanguard of these masses against you. [applause]

Can King Husayn say that he is not subservient to Western imperialist circles? If he denied this, would anyone believe him? [laughter] He has a long history. He speaks about independence, Arab identity and repudiation of subservience, but was he not the one to enlist the help of the British forces when the revolution took place in Iraq? Was he not the one who allowed the British forces to land at Al-Mafraq airfield to strike at the Jordanian people if they ever rose against his regime. He did not bring those forces to fight a foreign invasion against Jordan. This was not the case. When the revolution took place in Iraq, Husayn feared that its fire might spread to Amman, so he called the British. The British soldiers came, and he kept them until he was reassured regarding the situation.

Did Syria do this? Can the one who uses foreign forces to protect himself against his own people speak about an independent personality, the national and pan-Arab identity, independence and the repudiation of subservience? Does Husayn think that we are children who cannot distinguish between his words and deeds? We no longer care about words; we only care about deeds.

Some of you may have read Kissinger's memoirs on the 1970 incidents. Those who have not, should try to read them, because they are beneficial and amusing. When some Syrian units entered Jordan they did not enter to fight our people in Jordan or our army in Jordan. We are one country and one people. A king or several kings [applause and cheers of "Hafiz, Hafiz"] a president or several presidents cannot divide the sons of the one people--it was for the purpose of stopping our Palestinian and Jordanian brothers and sons from being killed.

Read about Husayn's contacts with Western ambassadors. He contacted the British, American and other ambassadors for support and intervention. Contacts were made with Israel, which was asked to prepare for an airstrike against the Syrian forces which entered northern Jordan. According to the memoirs, Kissinger woke Nixon at 0500 in the morning to discuss the matter. Should the matter be restricted to an Israeli airstrike on the Syrian forces in Jordan, or should the Israeli ground forces also intervene. For its part, Israel called for an immediate decision saying: Do you want us to go ahead with the airstrike only, or also launch a ground attack. If you want us to launch a ground attack, some preparations are needed.

They made the decision on the airstrike, and continued the discussion on the possibility of Israeli intervention with ground forces against the Syrian forces. Those who read the memoirs, must have clearly noted that the Jordanian regime was also urging them to make decisions on the airstrike and other forms of intervention against the Syrian forces.

Kissinger says at the end of his memoirs that for some reason or another the Syrian forces pulled out of Jordan when Israel was about to strike. Naturally, we were not aware that these contacts were going on. Therefore, our entry into and exit from Jordan had nothing to do with those contacts. Therefore, Husayn is part of the imperialist entity. He uses foreign forces against the Jordanian, Syrian and Palestinian people. Yet he brags about values, personality, independence and so forth.

Why is he so openly against our friendly ties with the Soviet Union? He does not want us to equate the USSR with the United States. We and all the Arabs have kept silent about the nature of his relations with the West which I have just discussed. He wants all the Arabs to emulate him.

Brothers, let us ask the Arabs in all honesty and objectivity: What do we have against the USSR? It stands by us. First, the USSR has never colonized our countries in the past. It has never killed our people as the colonial powers have done in various Arab countries. Furthermore, the USSR has never exploited our peoples. It does not have any monopolies. What harm has the USSR done us? Why should we be displeased with the USSR? What historical enmity do we have concerning the USSR? The USSR supports us as a matter of principle. It supports us politically and gives us military aid. It supports us in facing the Zionists, who are backed by U.S. arms, ammunition and other means of power.

Should we reward the USSR for all this by placing it on a par with the United States, which is giving Israel everything--arms and ammunition? Were it not for the United States, Israel would not have been able to occupy a single inch of our territory in Palestine or elsewhere.

Husayn would not accept even this. He would not agree to us placing them in the same position. He interprets friendship as subservience. The Soviet Union is giving us weapons; it is giving us the kinds of weapons it is giving to the communist countries. Does the United States give Jordan the same arms as it is giving to Israel? No. Why? Why is the Soviet Union giving us the arms it is giving to a communist country of the Warsaw Pact, and we, as is known, are not a communist country nor a Warsaw Pact member? The Soviet Union is giving us the same arms as pact members. The Soviet Union is giving us the same arms, whereas the United States is not giving the same arms to Jordan as it is giving Israel. This is for one reason: We and the Soviets are friends whereas he is subservient to the United States. [applause]

I repeat, the reason is clear: It is because we and the Soviet Union are friends, whereas he is subservient to the United States and not a friend. What does the friendship treaty say? It says that we and the Soviet Union stand, struggle and work against imperialism, Zionism and racism. The treaty also says that the Soviet Union will grant military, economic support and so forth. What is there in the treaty that harms the Arabs? Is it in the interest of the Arabs or in the interest of their enemies? The Soviet Union will support the Arabs and Syria in their struggle against Zionism and racism.

In a previous press statement, I said that I do not want to impose my opinion on any Arab brother. If they see anything evil in the treaty, I beg them to conclude a similar treaty with the United States and I will be the first to support and hail this treaty. [applause] Why? Let them conclude a similar treaty after deleting every point concerning progressiveness and socialism. But after deleting everything keep one thing: Let our friend say that Jordan and the United States agree to stand against Zionism. This sentence comes from our treaty. [applause] I am not asking them to conclude a similar treaty with the Soviet Union. I am telling them that I would support and, I repeat it here, I would support any Arab who concludes a similar treaty with the United States and with any Western state; or rather I would support any treaty that only stipulates that they will side with us against the Zionist invasion. I even want less than this. Let him conclude a treaty with the United States stipulating that Jordan and the United States have agreed to the effect that the United States would adopt total neutrality toward the Arab-Israeli conflict. I would relentlessly support and hail this treaty and I am certain that you would also support it. [applause]

What is the crime we have committed for which this man is trying to bring us to account. Let Husayn, Israel and every lackey of imperialism and Zionism in the area understand that our struggle and triumph over our enemies and for the sake of our issues require strengthening of our ties of friendship with the Soviet Union. [applause] On this occasion, and from here and despite his will and on behalf of our people and every Arab struggler I address greetings to the Soviet Union--leadership, party and people. [applause]

I also want to ask him: Why are you trying to drag us into several futile issues? Let us talk about the future and I ask you to do what you say. You say that you support our people in the West Bank against this usurper enemy. You talk about the impending threat, Arab solidarity, the necessity for unity and solidarity, the Palestinian people and the Palestinian people's independence, the PLO--the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people--and you also say that you are with the Arabs and with their unanimous resolutions. If you are honest in what you say, we will not disagree.

The Arabs decided during their summit to open the Arab fronts for Palestinian fedayeen action. You were one of those who had agreed on this decision, and you did not express any objection or reservation regarding this decision. So Arab brother, implement this decision as a sign of your Arabism and your love for your folks on the West Bank.

I do not want to bring you to account for the Muslim brothers activities because you are plotting against us. Why is he plotting against us? Because we did not adopt this line. This is the military ideology which he wants us to adopt. He wants us to adopt this ideology in favor of theimperialist circles. Let us open the Jordanian front for all kinds of Palestinian action and there will be nothing between us to disagree upon. [applause]

This is, or rather these are, the Arab summits' resolutions. Let us all implement them and there will be nothing between us to disagree upon. We only ask him to implement things to which we in Syria are committed. We will not ask him to shoulder any burden unless we at least shoulder a similar burden in Syria. He who treats you as his equal is being fair to you. If you do not implement the summits' resolutions, how can you ask for a collective Arab strategy? What is the collective Arab stand you are asking for? Where shall we stand? What is the objective we want to achieve?

We are ... ones who are honest and we want Arab solidarity and cohesion. This is in the interest of every Arab. We must support and help one another and confront the imperialist-Zionist onslaught. We must prepare in the face of the Israeli invasion. We are no longer as we were in the past. We must have the courage, the daring, to confront these fleets which surround us on every side. I said--and you heard my speech at the At-Ta'if conference--how can we feel secure about these fleets? Aren't they the ones who, not so long ago, were in our country? There isn't a home in Syria and the other Arab countries of which at least one member was not martyred by the bullets of these imperialists. We do not want to look at them now in the same way, but why these fleets? They are the ones who want to spark off a war in this region. They are the ones who want to transfer tension and explosiveness to this region. Who threatens us but them? We must clearly stand against these fleets and bases. We must really and practically confront the continuation of the Zionist invasion.

The Jordanian people are requested--our people in Jordan--to demand that the Jordanian regime carry out summit resolutions regarding fedayeen action. Implementation of this resolution must not be blocked by a group of pretexts based on certain encroachments which occurred in the past. Eleven years have passed since that issue. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians and Jordanians in Jordan are forbidden to practice the means of the struggle against the enemy of the Arab nation. Is that regime entitled to do this? They must practice their struggle. From here, I say to them, whichever of them wants to practice his struggle through the Syrian front, Syria's front is open. [applause] However, our brothers and sons, both Jordanian and Palestinian, must not allow that regime to be an obstacle to our practice of the right to struggle for our national and pan-Arab cause. They must not allow that regime to be a fence for Israel. He [King Husayn] continuously boasts that he is on the longest front. He is on the longest front. This game has continued since 1948. A long front, brothers, is an element of strength to us and an element of weakness to the enemy.

King Husayn wants to make it appear as though the contrary were true. He wants to pretend that it is the calamity of calamities that his front is long. It is more of an extreme calamity to Israel than to Jordan. It is the calamity of calamities to the aggressor, not to the one being attacked. If we want to struggle seriously against the enemy, this long front offers us possibilities which a small front does not offer. These are axiomatic facts which do not need to be explicated. All along that front, he forms a fence for the enemy.

It has become clear, brothers, that whoever wants to initiate a conspiratorial measure with Israel provokes battles with Syria and raises slogans, which are repeated.

When As-Sadat went to Jerusalem, he later raised the slogan of a Syrian mandate over the Palestinians. You remember this well. Before that and after the Sinai agreement, he raised the slogan of a Syrian mandate over the Palestinians. Now King Husayn raises a slogan, or statement, which he continuously repeats: Syria is practicing a mandate over the Palestinians, as the Soviet Union is practicing a mandate over Syria. The Palestinians are followers of Syria, as Syria is a follower of the Soviet Union. That man has his own logic. Perhaps also heredity has something to do with it, as we said a little while ago.

If we support the Palestinian organizations, that is, if we support our cause, ourselves and our kinfolk, we are holding a mandate over them. If we don't support them, our mandate falls. To prove that we are not holding this mandate, we must quarrel with them, so that King Husayn will believe that we in Syria are not holding the mandate over the PLO. If the PLO loses Syria's serious, real, daily support, it is independent. If Syria loses the support of the Soviet Union, it is independent, and vice versa. If the Soviet Union supports us, we lose our independence and strength, and if we support the PLO, it loses a great deal of its independence. Whoever follows Husayn's words deduces this very clearly.

I repeat that I did not want to mention what I did in the 1967 war, despite its importance and significance. I always felt that it would be better to leave this to others who follow events and are well informed, especially since it is we who, despite setbacks and all shocks, were and are still trying to bring the Arabs concerned together, if only on a minimum basis which will comprise the bases of confrontation between us and the Zionist enemy.

Taking into consideration the nature of the phase through which we are passing, however that is being planned for the Palestinian cause and the just Arab struggle and the possible role which may be assigned to the reactionary Jordanian regime, we felt that even a brief exposition of that regime's real stands--whether in 1948 or in 1967 and after that in 1973--might alert many who did not have the chance to follow events on the one hand, and would make clear the lengths to which that regime can go in its treachery toward the Arabs and their causes on the other hand; especially since the contacts that occurred and occur between Husayn and the enemy leaders, constituting one of the biggest treasonous activities, are taking place within the context of planning and preparation for the forthcoming role of the Jordanian regime.

He wants to divert the Arab nation and make it forget the contacts he is making. By the way, he spoke a great deal about ethical values. He addressed those present patronizingly from the beginning of his speech by saying: Al-Husayn's greetings to you. He did not say I greet you, or we greet you. He said Al-Husayn's greetings. He told them that he is a descendant of the prophet and God had so honored him. [member of audience interrupts saying: The prophet is innocent of him.] Precisely, precisely. [applause] It seems that he wants to hold the prophet, many God's peace and blessing be upon him, responsible for his deeds. [laughter] Otherwise, what do his words mean? He affirmed this and his desire to be an Arab and Hashemite martyr. He stated more than once that he is related to God's prophet.

First of all brothers, this is a doubtful and disputable issue. Indeed, this issue was discussed during the era of unity between Egypt and Syria as you may recall. If we were to discuss the issue we would need a long time. [applause] Second, God's prophet did not assume his mission or acquire importance either from his father or sons. Third, we all know that Abu-Lahab is the prophet's uncle [applause] and yet, he was the subject of the sura of Al-Masad which was revealed. It is Abu-Lahab about whom Almighty God said: "Perish the hands of the father of flame! Perish me! No profit to him from all his wealth and all his gains! Burnt soon will he be in a fire of blazing flame! His wife shall carry the crackling wood as fuel! A twisted rope of palmleaf fibre round her own neck!" [Koranic verse]

He told them why he had never thought ill of us before. He explained that he did not think ill of us in Syria--who were the cause of all problems and calamities--because of his sincerity and pride, adding that this only manifested part of Husayn's morals. This appealed to me and I learned it by heart. [applause] Yes, this manifested part of Husayn's morals. Oh brothers, if what we see and have seen [laughter] is part of Husayn's morals, what will the case be and what shall we see when we come face to face with the total picture? [applause] If this part killed hundreds of workers, peasants, doctors, engineers, students and other sectors of the people in Syria; if this part played such a big role in the conspiratorial plot against Syria during the past year and year before for one reason or another, particularly at this stage when Syria is playing a significant national, pan-Arab and struggle role; if only this part of Husayn's morals achieved all these feats through his successive secret meetings with Peres, Rabin before him, Meir before she died, with Dayan and others, who as I recall, number about ten--if only part of Husayn's morals achieved so much, how much will all his morals achieve? [laughter] God save us from such morals. [laughter] God save us from the particular and totality of such morals. God keep away one who is endowed with such morals. [applause]

He who is close to God's prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, is he who is close in his deeds, morals, values, struggle and hard work. This is what God's prophet and Islam, which God's prophet introduced, taught us. Thus, he who has done what he has done has nothing to do with God's prophet and his Islam.

I shall not discuss the part played by this regime in the October war since you all know about his ignominious role in this war, which took place not long ago. Indeed, we all remember the events of this war. I also spoke about this war on 8 March.

Of course, I learned from his statements something which is not of great use but can be mentioned. He said that he dispatched an army brigade to us so as to fight alongside us. I mentioned this on 8 March. He said that he did not want this brigade to go far lest it would be cut off from the supply bases. He also discussed high-level military concepts and I cannot discuss these ideas now; you and I can do without such a discussion. However, what I have recently learned--believe me I did not know this earlier--is that the brigade which was dispatched to us is called Prince 'Ali's Brigade. This name reminds me of an absurd thing. This is related to Prince 'Ali whose name was given to the brigade. Prince 'Ali is King Husayn's eldest son. When the forces of 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud occupied At-Ta'if, the prominent figures of Hejaz met and dismissed King Husayn--Ash-Sharif Husayn. They installed his son 'Ali as king. They had expected this to calm down the surging forces of 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. However, this procedure did not stop the surge of these forces, which seized Mecca. The king's seat was in Jidda; yes, the king's seat was in Jidda. The forces of King 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud were transferred to besiege Jidda.

It seems that Prince 'Ali--King 'Ali later--was a good-natured, peaceful man who loved politics but hated war. He thus resorted to negotiations and, as I recall from what I have read, his conditions were simple and modest. I do not remember all his conditions, but I recall some of them. Those of you who are interested can look up these historical documents in the books. King 'Ali's demands were thus made. King 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud was determined to overthrow the family and to expel King 'Ali from Jidda. King 'Ali--whose name was given to the brigade--agreed to abdicate and leave Hejaz in return for some demands, including--and this is the crux of the matter--a demand that King 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud allow him to take out his things, including his automobile. [laughter] I learned this by heart word by word because it truly attracted my attention. May his soul rest in peace; it seems he was a good-natured person. He was not interested in anything other than his automobile. Incidentally, King 'Abd al-'Aziz agreed that 'Ali should be allowed to take all his belongings, including his automobile. [laughter] This exists in historical documents.

In his last speech our friend King Husayn asked: What is the next step? I tell him: The next step, my friend, is that you should take whatever of your belongings you want, including your automobile, and go. [applause]

Naming the brigade after Prince 'Ali has reminded me of this funny anecdote. At any rate, the soldiers of this brigade are our soldiers and sons. They are brave officers and men. We have nothing but good will for them. Like every Arab army, the Jordanian Army comes from our people and sons. It is not the armies but the political leaders that are responsible for any failure.

Brother workers, the occasion you are celebrating today is a source of pride for every worder, peasant and struggler. It is also a source of pride for every honest Arab who believes in his nation and fights for its objectives of justice, progress, unity, freedom and socialism. Through the suffering of the toilers, mankind has learned the meaning of freedom. Through the suffering of the toilers, mankind has learned the meaning of justice. Through the suffering of the toilers, mankind has learned the meaning of socialism. Through this suffering also, mankind has learned human rights, which are linked with the rights of the masses.

To you, brother Arab workers, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding of your confederation, I extend the greetings and congratulations of the Syrian people and the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. To you, brother Syrian workers, on the occasion of the 43d anniversary of the founding of your trade union organization, I extend the greetings and congratulations of your people in Syria and your party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

I am pleased that we are joined in this celebration by trade unionist brothers and friends from the Arab homeland, Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America as well as by the representatives of member organizations of the confederation, professional unions, the WFTU, the Arab labor organization and the international labor organization. On behalf of our people and party, I warmly welcome you brothers and friends. I would also like to say that we are very proud of your presence among us this day. I wish you a happy stay in our country. Through you, I extend my greetings to all workers in your organization. [applause]

Brother Arab workers, it pleases me on the occasion of the silver jubilee of your confederation to present the ICATU, in the name of Syrian people and workers, the highest Omayyad National Medal in appreciation for your struggle and efforts over the past quarter of a century. I am also pleased to present you, in the name of the Syrian people, a modest gift, the site for building the Arab Trade Union Cultural Institute. My greetings to you. May God grant you success. Peace be upon you.

STATEMENT BY JORDANIAN WORKERS FEDERATION CITED

JN251611 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Damascus--The federation of Jordanian workers has denounced the campaigns being launched by the agent Jordanian regime against the workers and union leaders in Jordan and the Jordanian national elements. In its statement the federation cites the acts of murder and torture to which the detainees in the Jordanian regime's prisons are being subjected as a result of their honorable pan-Arab stands against the treason of King Husayn and his agent regime.

The federation affirms that 157 workers and Jordanian union leaders are suffering from the worst kinds of torture and maltreatment by the executioners of the agent Jordanian regime. It adds that the ruling authorities have sentenced several union leaders to death and others to imprisonment ranging from 3 years to life. A large number of union leaders are also being detained without trial.

JORDANIAN REGIME SEEN AS 'ARTIFICIAL ENTITY'

JN260821 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Mar 81

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] In an editorial entitled "Husayn and the Heritage of the Jordanian Regime," the newspaper TISHRIN says: King Husayn, in a desperate attempt to divert attention from the scandal of his secret meetings in the dark with the rulers and politicians of the racist, Zionist regime, spoke of the heritage of the royal regime in Jordan. He related epics about his activities in Arab, Islamic and international arenas on behalf of the Palestine cause and the rights of the Palestinian people.

TISHRIN adds: It is a proven historical fact, which does not require documentation or discussion, that the international Jordanian entity [as heard] is an artificial entity created by British imperialism after World War I as part of the well-known imperialist operation to split up the Arab homeland, distribute it between Britain and France and prevent the natural unity of its parts.

The area upon which the imperialists established the emirate of east Jordan, followed by the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, is the land of Syria; it is a natural part of Syria. History has never recognized the presence of an international, or even administrative, entity separate from Syria. Hence, we find that the royal Jordanian regime is the result of imperialist policy, which is antagonistic to the interests and unity of the Arab nation. It is a regime which is imposed on the Jordanian people by imperialism. The people were not consulted about this regime. From the pan-Arab point of view, it is an illegitimate, undemocratic and un-Arab regime.

When the king, the head of that regime, receives financial rewards of millions of dollars from the CIA in return for services and information about Middle East circumstances, as indicated by the reports of congressional investigative committees, the extent of the linkage between the royal regime and imperialism, and the avenues of intelligence contacts between the king and his regime and the Zionist enemy become clear.

TISHRIN concludes: When President Hafiz al-Asad said in his speech at the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions jubilee celebrations that the course awaiting King Husayn is to take his possessions, luggage and car and leave, he was pronouncing the verdict of the Arab masses on the regime intruding on the Arabs.

OFFICIALS MARK ANNIVERSARY OF TREATY WITH EGYPT

Begin Message

TA251507 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] The prime minister today sent the Egyptian president a congratulatory message on the occasion of the second anniversary of the signing of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. Among other things, Menahem Begin wrote: The peace treaty between our two nations expresses a turning point in the annals of the Middle East. We all look forward to our continued effort to bring the Camp David accords to their full implementation.

Shamir Remarks

TA251825 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Remarks by Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir on 25 March on the occasion of the second anniversary of signing the peace treaty with Egypt--recorded]

[Text] It can be noted that there are obstacles on our way, there are difficulties, but progress is also marked. There is certain progress in everything pertaining to the normalization issue. There are fewer achievements in the autonomy negotiations. The autonomy negotiations have been often interrupted over these years. These are unjustified breaks as far as we are concerned since it is exactly the differences existing between the Egyptian and us regarding various aspects of the autonomy plan that call for speeding up the negotiations, for conducting them without interruptions, with perseverence and firm resolution to reach an agreement. To our regret, the many breaks have not rendered it possible to iron out the differences. We hope that in the course of time we shall overcome these difficulties as well. In sum, though, peace exists. It should be further built, fortified and strengthened but it is certainly underway and progress is being made.

U.S. PLAN TO SHIFT AID TO EL SALVADOR REPORTED

TA260642 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 26 Mar 81

[TExt] The U.S. administration has officially confirmed that part of the enlarged economic aid the United States will give El Salvador will come temporarily at the expense of Israel and Egypt. However, the State Department spokesman who made this announcement stressed that a relatively small sum of about $9 to $10 million is involved. These funds will temporarily be taken from the aid earmarked for Israel and will be transferred to El Salvador. The amount of money diverted from each country will be the same, the spokesman said, stressing that this was a temporary arrangement only. There is no intention to take anything from the money allotted to Israel and Egypt, he said.

This should be seen as a temporary redistribution of the economic aid budget. The United States will fulfill all its commitments toward Israel and Egypt. The move was decided on after the administration decided to double the economic aid to El Salvador this year, from $63 million to $126 million, and is now wondering how to finance this. The budget change requires congressional approval. Correspondents note that Israel has been allocated $785 million in economic aid this year and Egypt has been allocated $750 million.

MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON ASSESSED

TA260634 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 26 Mar 81

[By military correspondent Shmu'el Tal--recorded]

[Text] IDF sources are saying that the tension in southern Lebanon is a direct result of the aggressive and uncompromising policy of the new UNIFIL commander, Gen William Callaghan. The results of the entry into the village of Al-Qantarah of a Lebanese Army force are already evident, and now Callaghan has announced that he intends to return the Lebanese Army into the country's southern region and that he will not be deterred even if UNIFIL soldiers are killed in the course of this operation.

We have learned that General Callaghan is now working to organize more Lebanese Army units, with the next force apparently due to take up positions in the villages of (Bar'ashit) and Shaqra, about 10 km north of Avivim, in the sector under the supervison of the Irish and Ghanaian battalions.

The reservoir from which these forces are being formed is in Beirut and in Al-Biqa', and any force moved southward will be subordinate to General Callaghan. The Lebanese Army's 21st battalion, linked up with UNIFIL in Al-Qantarah, is obtaining supplies from its command post in Arzun; operationally, however, it is directly subordinate to the United Nations and takes its orders, briefings and assignments from UNIFIL headquarters in An-Naqurah. This force does not fly its own banner but lives together with t he UN soldiers and takes part in patrols with them in the same vehicles.

Militia Commander Major Haddad says he will very firmly oppose any further advance of Lebanese Army soldiers toward his forces. A few days ago he told us that these Muslim troops are Syrian instruments and they intend to fight the Christians and dismantle the enclave under UN auspices:

[Haddad--in English] We have problems only with the so-called Lebanese Army. All of them, or most of them--99 percent of them--are Muslims who used to serve in the so-called Lebanese Arabic army in Tripoli and they have come to fight the Christians.

[Tal] In the meantime, senior IDF sources are calling for the dismantlement of the base established by the United Nations in Nahariyya. The United Nations received permission to set up a parking lot for vehicles which are not allowed to enter Lebanon due to attempts uncovered a year ago--to smuggle explosives [into Israel]. From a parking lot, the site, which extends over several dunams on the Nahriyya shore, developed into a full-fledged military camp, with nine buildings, barbed wire, a military police post, a club, a communications system, high antennas and a UN flag. Mayor Efrayim Sharir says he will demand that the camp, which many view unfavorably, be dismantled.

[Sharir] Under no circumstances will we allow them to establish a kind of camp usually deemed extraterritorial within the town of Nahariyya.

[Tal] The military sources told us that this is the only case in the world in which an observer force is based inside the same country on whose actions it reports--with these reports also reaching elements operating directly against that country. The United Nations has been in Nahariyya for some time but now, the military sources say, in view of the uncompromising approach of General Callaghan--whose actions are liable to bring the Syrians forward across the red line in southern Lebanon--UNIFIL, which means UN Interim Force in Lebanon, must be based in Lebanon and not in Nahariyya.

IRAQI PLANES RECEIVING MILITARY ITEMS IN CAIRO

TA261051 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 26 Mar 81 p 1

[By military correspondent Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] Iraqi Air Force cargo planes have been landing for more than a week now in the military area of the Cairo international airport, where they are loaded with military items Egypt is supplying to Iraq. The planes then return to Baghdad.

Thus Egypt has begun a direct supply of ammunition and spare parts to the Iraqi Army in spite of the fact that there are no diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Israeli sources who point to the strengthening of ties between Baghdad and Cairo note that in addition to the Cargo planes Iraqi national airline planes also land in Cairo in order to transfer military supplies to Baghdad.

It is emphasized in Israel that this is a new phenomenon that indicates Egypt's intention to increase its involvement in the Iraqi-Iranian war.

The contact between Cario and Baghdad was arranged through Jordan, which had mediated between them. At the first stage it was Jordan that transferred the Egyptian military equipment to Iraq.

Some circles in Israel believe that the United States has encouraged Egypt to expand its ties with Iraq so that Egypt's influence grows and relations between the two countries become firmer.

SHIM'ON PERES INTERVIEWED ON FOREIGN POLICY

TA252050 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1935 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Interview of Labor Party Chairman MK Shim'on Peres on the weekly Moqed program by party affairs correspondent Nisim Mish'al and Shim'on Tessler, with Eli Nisanzas program moderator; date not given--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Mish'al] Let us turn to the contacts or meetings you held with King Hassan and with King Husayn's brother. As far as I know, and as far as is generally known here, you talked about the Alignment's political plan, or what is called here the Jordanian option. In an interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT yesterday, Prince Hassan said that Jordan has no common language with the Israeli Labor Party. Who does understand the Labor Party's positions? Is this the outcome of the talks you held?

[Peres] You know, I visited a certain country, which denied that I was there. What would you learn from this? That there is a difference between what one declares and what actually happened.

Yet I would like to reply to this in a more serious manner: In my estimation, the entire Middle East, and Israel in particular, is currently in a special predicament. The next 4 years will not be like the previous 4 years. After Camp David, given a new administration in the United States--and Reagan signifies not only a personal change but a change of world concept and a view of this area in a regional and global perspective--the Iran-Iraq war, Saudi Arabia's shaky situation and the peace between us and Egypt, now I ask myself, as I must do, where are we heading in the next 4 years? This is the basic question. And I am reminded that in the early 1950's the British organized an Arab league here. It was joined by Britain and we were excluded. I fear that even now an Arab league plus the United States will organize without us.

Yet I am convinced that with a correct Israeli policy it would be possible to establish a regional antiterror setup to counter Soviet or alien penetration and fanatic forces and at the same time promote economic cooperation. Israel should take this initiative. As party leader, it is my duty, on the eve of the elections, to go and meet all the pertinent figures to examine the possibilities and the incumbent interlocutors. Let me tell you one thing: I have returned optimistic from my travels. I would not like to disclose details at this moment because I did not go in order to negotiate the Alignments' platform. Rather, I went to find out exactly the feasibility of a new situation and its inherent possibilities.

[Mish'al] In other words, you believe that should the Alignment assume power, Jordan will be prepared to accept the Jordanian option as a solution to the problem along our eastern border?

[Peres] I did not conduct negotiations and I cannot give you an answer. Yet I assume Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the United States and Israel can cooperate in establishing a political setup that would be desirable to all of them as well as to us. You know, one cannot flaunt territories all the time. We seem to believe that everywhere we go we have to pull out a piece of land from our pocket and offer it as a gift. Why?

[Mich'al] But while you propose the Jordanian option the Jordanian leaders in an unequivocal manner deny this--as we know, on Saturday, in a speech commemorating the [1968] battle of Al-Karamah Husayn said in words that could not be interpreted in two ways, and I quote: Jordan is faithful to the Rabat conference resolutions that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinians. On what can we, then, compromise with Husayn? On the incorporation of the PLO?

[Peres] First of all, do you have an alternative? Is the PLO prepared to negotiate? Is anyone prepared to have the autonomy? Also, I would rather have Jordan say no than to have us all the time be blamed for being the nay-sayers. However, I would also like to tell you this: the phrase "Jordanian option" is a rather wide umbrella under which various options can be found. In my opinion, under the term "Jordanian option" a host of things can be done, such as, for instance, beginning economic cooperation--and I talked about this with Arab leaders and European leaders, and, again, I am not impressed with declarations and you can cite as many quotes as you want--extending between the Dead Sea and Elat, where they have a very busy port and we do, too, and, like building an airport, a road, a phosphates plant. What was there in that entire region? In general, I would not like Husayn to walk around like some kind of hero, threatening, agreeing and then not accepting; he is doing us no favor. I am not walking around feeling that I represent a weak Israel; I walk around feeling that I represent an Israel that has strength, an opinion, initiative and also needs the appropriate--restrained--style.

[Tessler] But this is also an Israel that has changed a lot in the last 4 years--take about 60 new settlements in Judaea and Samaria, perhaps more. What do you offer them in those talks?

[Peres] I do not conduct negotiations on settlements. In general, I do not hold negotiations. In my opinion, what we should agree on is on a launching point for negotiations. Where do we start from? In my opinion, we can begin from one of two opening positions: either Camp David, where Jordan has a formal role to play; or Resolutions 242 and 338 that both Jordan and we accepted. I strongly object to holding negotiations before we have met and begun negotiations. In my opinion, just as the case was with Egypt in 1974, we should agree on an opening position and then we will sit and conduct negotiations.

[Mish'al] The question is whether, in your talks, you got the impression that Husayn, for example, would be prepared to give up his commitment to the PLO?

[Peres] If you read Husayn's statements carefully--and, by the way, I would not like to be an analyst of his statements--he said: We, that is Jordan, have an obligation to solve the Palestinian problem. One thing is to pay lipservice to the PLO, to which he added his own bit: I, too, am responsible for the solution of the Palestinian problem. You know, the same happened with Saudi Arabia. The Saudis said they do not accept the Peres plan but in May 1980 'Abdallah, the number three man in the royal hierarchy, rose up and said: We are cousins--this is very polite talk--and let us make peace. One cannot hold negotiations by citing declarations.

[Nisan] Mr Peres, allow me to ask you a question on this point--you are talking about a new political structure in the Middle East. So far--how should I say this--you have remained in the sphere of the general structures. You have mentioned Saudi Arabia--what role are you, in fact, designating for Saudi Arabia in the negotiations?

[Peres] I am not designating a role to it. I do not want to give gifts to anybody...

[Nisan--interrupts] In which context do you mention this, then?

[Peres] I will explain this to you. I believe that Saudi Arabia needs peace and stability in the Middle East no less than we do. There will be no stability without Israel. I think that with one who has oil and no stability, the oil is in danger. In addition, we are located near the Red Sea, along the shores of the Red Sea, and the question is what kind of a sea will this be. Furthermore, I do not treat Saudi Arabia only according to its financial dimension. It is an empire of money, indeed. Otherwise, however, this is a loose, weak body, full of internal contradictions and I do not propose that we all always go with the territories to Mecca. [as heard] What for?

[Nisan] How is Saudi Arabia incorporated in the negotiations, as far as we are concerned?

[Peres] Well, what is new about Reagan, in my opinion, is that in contrast to Carter, who moved from handling local problems to handling regional and then global problems, the order with the Reagan administration is the opposite: it moves from global to regional and then to local problems. What is also very interesting is that for the first time a U.S. administration is saying: Let us fight terrorism together. Terrorists deal a blow to the Arabs as well. We can achieve economic cooperation, we can achieve joint war against terrorism, we can face up to fanatic movements. I have grounds to believe that all this does not fall on deaf ears.

[Nisan] However, can all this exist without a prior resolution of the Judaea and Samaria problem, of the Palestinian problem?

[Peres] Do you first want to try out a prior resolution...

[Nisan--interrupts] No, I am asking whether you think it is possible to reach...

[Peres--interrupts] I will answer you. In my opinion, one should hold parallel negotiations. First, on the regional level, Israel can make a contribution in the region. In my opinion, the Middle Eastern chapter has now opened in Israel's foreign policy.

I know many people do not like this. It is not the first time in my life that I, and not only I, have reached a conclusion that there is room for a new situation, for a new initiative and then all the people of routine who are accustomed to slogans begin to ask: What is this? Who is this? Believe me, the same happened to me in France, when we began in France--surprise and criticism. I do not intend to be frightened by this. It is my duty, as a representative of a responsible party, to examine new situations. I believe that the Middle Eastern chapter has now begun in the Israeli foreign policy. We are not used to this. It seems strange to us. However, we shall hold parallel negotiations, with Egypt on Camp David, with the inhabitants of the territories and with Jordan, as outlined in the Camp David agreements, in parallel.

[Nisan] Mr Peres, ever since you returned you have raised the concept of the Saudi option or the possible inclusion of Saudi Arabia inpossible negotiations in various variations [last word in English]. Is it also possible to say that you have also met with Saudi officials and that you are basing your assumptions on this?

[Peres] If I had anything to announce on this, I would have willingly told you. I do not intend to detail with whom I meet and on what. What would it accomplish?

[Tessler] Can you at least tell us whether the Saudi issue is based on more than a guess of yours?

[Peres] No, I am not prepared to say this. I do not want to commit anybody. I can only tell you that although I cannot speak of this with certainty, I am optimistic. I believe that a lot depends on Israel's initiative. I would prefer an Israel that talks with a restrained tone but still firmly insists on its positions to an Israel that speaks out loudly and later flees the Sinai in lightening speed. I believe that just as on defense matters--we do not want, you know, for the Americans or the French to defend us, I also do not want others to make peace for us and instead of us.

BEDOUIN CHIEFS TO RUN ON INDEPENDENT LIST

TA202014 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1815 GMT 20 Mar 81

[Text] The chiefs of the Israeli bedouin tribes will run on an independent list for the 10th Knesset. This was decided this morning at a national rally of the tribal chiefs in Umm al-Ghanam at the foot of Har Tavor. The list will bear the name of the deceased Knesset member Shaykh Hamad Abu Rabi'a.

PALESTINIAN UNITS SENT TO SPAIN FOR TRAINING

TA241015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] Palestinian terrorist units have been sent to Madrid in the past few days to train in the Basque ETA terror organization's bases. Reliable sources told our Paris correspondent, Freddie Eytan, that the units come from the Ahmad Jibril and George Habash organizations and have already been trained by archterrorist Carlos in camps in South Yemen. According to the sources, the Palestinian units plan to carry out demonstrative terror acts in Western Europe. The sources told our reporter that in the last few weeks the Soviet Union has stepped up its military and financial aid to the Basque ETA organization.

MAURITANIA

MOROCCAN CHARGES OF POLISARIO COLLUSION DENIED

Foreign Ministry Statement

LD252258 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Statement issued by Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation on 25 March]

[Text] The Moroccan Government has accused Mauritania in the wake of the attack which the Polisario Front launched against the town of Guelte Zemmur, in Western Sahara. Since its policy is always aimed at leveling accusations against Mauritania, the Moroccan Government claimed that the Polisario forces which attacked that town came from Mauritanian territory. This is no more than a fresh accusation which falls within the framework of the campaign of aggravating the situation, which Morocco is launching against Mauritania and whose first phase was represented by the attack of 16 March--which confirmed anew the desire of Morocco to use our country (?as a staging post) to execute the well-known right of pursuit with which it continues to threaten Mauritania.

We assert again that our territory has not been used at any time as a passage for the Polisario Front forces, either in this attack or in the previous attacks in Western Saharan territory and southern Morocco. These fabricated allegations are but a process of misleading world public opinion, whose aim is to prepare a new aggression against our country, an aggression that falls within the framework of a comprehensive plan to create confusion, which the treacherous aggression of the 16 March did not attain its [words indistinct].

We affirm that we do not bear responsibility for the grave repercussions which will arise as a result of a new Moroccan aggression against our country.

Once more we appeal to the international and to the African and Arab organizations and to public opinion to halt the escalation of the attacks which Morocco is continuing against our country. We declare our readiness to welcome a group of journalists from various quarters to come at any time and acquaint themselves on the spot with the situation and inform their readers and countries that our country is not being used as a base (?for forces) other than the Mauritanian Armed Forces.

However things may be, Mauritania will defend itself until the end and against any fresh aggression. We assert that Morocco alone bears responsibility for such aggression.

Arab Observers Invited

LD252242 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] The Mauritanian news agency has learned from an official source that the Mauritanian Government instructed our representative at the Arab foreign ministers' conference, which convened in Tunis, to ask his friends, in the event that Morocco lodged a complaint connected with the presence of Polisario bases in Mauritania, to send Arab observers to learn the whereabouts of these alleged bases. The Mauritanian Government is prepared to welcome these friends anywhere in Mauritanian territory.

IRAQI PRESIDENT'S ENVOY ARRIVES IN NOUAKCHOTT

LD252330 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Summary] "Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council, deputy prime minister and personal envoy of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, arrived in Nouakchott a short while ago. He was welcomed by the prime minister, Ahmed Ould Bneijara, and by other officials, as well as by the Iraqi ambassador in Nouakchott and the embassy staff."

In a statement to the national press Tariq 'Aziz said he was come to Mauritania as the envoy of President Saddam Husayn to his brother the president, Mohamed Khoune Ould Haydala, and the brothers in the Mauritanian leadership. He wished Mauritania further progress and prosperity.

LEADERS OF COUP ATTEMPT LOSE APPEAL, EXECUTED

Appeal Rejection

AB251855 Paris AFP in English 1838 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] Nouakchott, March 25 (AFP)--Appeals against the execution of four convicted leaders of last week's attempted coup d'etat in Mauritania have been rejected by head of state Colonel Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, it was confirmed here. Deputy Prosecutor-General Major Sow Samba declared that death sentences on the four were therefore immediately effective.

The two main leaders of the abortive coup of March 16, ex-Lieutenant Colonels Mohamed Ould Abdel Kader and Ahmed Salem Ould Sidi, and ex-Lieutenants Mustapha and Mohamed Doudou Seck, were sentenced to death by a special court yesterday.

26 Mar Execution

JN260910 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Nouakchott, 26 Mar (INA)--Four military men accused of participating in the abortive coup attempt on 16 March were executed by firing squad at dawn today. The sentence, passed by a special court the day before yesterday, was carried out at a Mauritanian military base near the capital, Nouakchott.

HAYDALA ENVOYS TO CONFER WITH AFRICAN LEADERS

AB260935 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] The chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation and head of state, Lt Col Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala, is sending envoys to the African presidents.

Thus, Health and Social Affairs Minister Dr Youssef Diagana will leave Nouakchott this evening for the Ivory Coast, the People's Revolutionary Republic of Guinea, Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, Zaire, Congo and Angola. He will deliver messages from the head of state to the presidents of these countries.

Another envoy of the CMSN chairman--Youth and Sports Minister Ba Mahmoud--will also leave Nouakchott this evening for Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Madagascar, where he will deliver messages to these countries' heads of state.

MOROCCO

BOUABID WARNS BENIJARA ON 'MERCENARY' SUPPORT

LD260020 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Cable sent by Maati Bouabid, prime minister and justice minister, to Ahmad Ould Bneijara, Mauritanian prime minister, on 25 March]

[Text] Your Excellency the Prime Minister,

The village of Guelta Zemmur near the Mauritanian-Moroccan border was subjected to an aggression on 24 March at 0600 at the hands of a group of mercenaries estimated at 3,000 men. Information available to us enables us to confirm with certainty that the aggressors crossed the joint border from the village of Bir Mogrein, which is inside Mauritania.

This attack was preceded by a biased campaign directed from Nouakchott against Morocco. His majesty's government refuted those false claims and allegations and drew the attention of the word's public opinion to the conspiracy which was being hatched in northwest Africa whose main objective was to harm the stability of this region.

The events of 24 March confirmed my country's point of view and proved that the Mauritanian Government has abandoned its declared attitude, which was cabled to the United Nations and the OAU, concerning its complete neutrality in the conflict in northwest Africa.

This new situation in our relations is very serious, in addition to being totally contradictory to the statements made by you to his majesty at the meeting you held in At-Ta'if in the presence of His Excellency President Ahmed Sekou Toure of Guinea.

We hope that you will fully appreciate the consequences of any possible collusion between Mauritania and the gang of mercenaries, and that you will learn the lesson and understand the responsibilities involved in this before it is too late.

Morocco, which intends to exercise its natural right to self-defense, will not remain idle and will use all the legitimate means at its disposal to guarantee the protection of its national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Accept our highest esteem.

[Signed] Maati Bouabid, prime minister and justice minister of the government of the Kingdom of Morocco.

NIGER LEADER VERY PLEASED WITH MOROCCAN TALKS

LD251121 Casablanca LE MATIN in French 18 Mar 81 p 1

[Mustapha Benhida report: "Niger Head of State Left Marrakesh for Niamey Yesterday"]

[Excerpts] Col Seyni Kountche, president of the Republic of Niger and chairman of the Supreme Military Council, left our country yesterday, Tuesday, at 1130, after a 24-hour working visit, during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II. The Niger head of state made a press statement in which he said among other things:

"This is the first time since we took office in Niger that we have visited Morocco, but it is not the first time that we have had an opportunity for talks with His Majesty King Hassan II."

"It is quite natural," he continued, "that such meetings take place, considering that we belong to the same continent and the same Islamic faith and share the same culture. And also considering that we have great esteem and respect for His Majesty King Hassan II, because of his qualities both as a man and, especially, as a statesman," he added. "I greatly profit from any exchange of views with His Majesty King Hassan II," he explained.

Referring to cultural cooperation between Morocco and Niger, the Niger president recalled that such cooperation does exist between the two countries and that a certain number of Niger students are being trained in Morocco in various spheres. "We would like to give a new impetus and a certain dimension to this cooperation," he explained, "and this subject was discussed yesterday between members of my delegation and Moroccan officials, especially since Morocco has big phosphate deposits and has gained great experience in that sphere. It so happens that we have some phosphate deposits, and we would like to establish cooperation in that sphere at a rather high level."

"I am returning to my country very pleased with my talks with his majesty the king and the Moroccan prime minister, because they are very conscious of the future of cooperation between Morocco and Niger," he concluded.

SUDAN

COLLABORATORS WITH LIBYA TO LOSE CITIZENSHIP

JN252024 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] Khartoum, 25 Mar (SUNA)--It was learned here today that President Numayri has decided to withdraw Sudanese citizenship from any Sudanese citizen who may join a Libyan scheme--a scheme backed by a superpower--that intends to enlist Arab citizens, including Sudanese, in what the Libyan regime terms the salvation army. President Numayri also decided that those who join this scheme shall be brought to trial and shall be subject to other penalties in accordance with the state security law and other laws in force.

In order to expose this scheme, SUNA reports the following: In November 1980 the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, in collusion with a superpower whose military bases are scattered over the Libyan land, began to prepare for its scheme, which is hostile to the African and Arab peoples and states. The intention of this scheme was to interfere in the affairs of these peoples and states, either through invasion, as it happened in Chad, or through instigating tribal or racial trends that jeopardize national unity or through carrying out terrorist acts and physical liquidations, as happened in a number of African and Arab states, to give the superpowers an excuse for intervention and turning the Arab-African area into an arena for world conflict under hollow slogans, such as Arab unity and the Islamic African empire.

The preparation for this criminal scheme clearly appeared in a call broadcast over Tripoli radio on 14 November 1980 which was repeated by various world news agencies and radios. In this call, the Libyan armed forces chief of staff called upon Arab students, regardless of their citizenship, to register their names at the Libyan military academy to undergo military training and to join what the Libyan regime termed then as the Arab Salvation Army. World papers also published ads, paid for by the Libyan regime, calling on Arab students and citizens to join that alleged army. The ads said that the enlisted persons will receive high salaries that exceed the salaries usually paid to military specialists in the various Arab armies. The Libyan regime was trying to tempt those with weak spirits to carry out acts of sabotage against their own peoples and countries.

Commenting on the Libyan regime's practices, an official source told SUNA that this violates all international laws and norms and condemns the evil intentions which the Libyan regime is harboring against our African continent and our Arab nation. The Democratic Republic of the Sudan wants to draw the attention of all the brother citizens to the dimensions of this Libyan scheme and warns them against being trapped by the false materialistic temptations of the Libyan regime, which is trying to attain its criminal objectives. The official source added that his excellency the president has decided to withdraw Sudanese citizenship from any Sudanese citizen who joins this scheme, which is hidden under the so-called salvation army, and was decided that he who joins this scheme shall be brought to trial and shall be subject to other penalties in accordance with the state security law and other laws in force.

The Libyan intervention in Chad has clearly disclosed the presence of multinational elements, who took part in the fighting at the side of the Libyan Army when it invaded Chadian territory. This was disclosed by the various reports which SUNA disseminated in addition to those carried by the world press on the presence of many dead, captives and wounded of various nationalities.

STATEMENT BY EMBASSY IN JIDDA OUTLINES POLICY

LD251445 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 Mar 81 p 1

[Report by Wahib Muhammad Ghurab and Ayman Zahid of Jidda bureau: "Sudan Ends the Arguments and Defines Its Policy Officially: 'Opposition to Foreign Presence in Africa and Rejection of the Establishment of Military Bases in the Country'"]

[Text] Jidda--In an official statement Sudan has emphasized its rejection of the principle of establishing military bases or granting military facilities to any foreign state. It affirmed that it continues to adhere to its professed stance on military bases in the area--the stance of rejecting foreign presence in the African Continent. Sudan made its stance clear in a statement issued by the Sudanese Embassy to the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, emphasizing the following 7 points:

1. Sudan adopts a firm stand of rejecting foreign presence on the African Continent, and therefore rejects the estalishment of foreign bases on its territories. Sudan realizes more than others the seriousness of foreign intervention and has often warned against it.

2. Sudan has not asked for the establishment of military bases or for granting military facilities to any foreign forces. Sudan's request has been confined to military aid for the Sudanese forces in order to strengthen their defensive capabilities against the serious challenges to Sudan's security and territory.

3. The requested aid for the Sudanese forces is the establishment of bases and airports for the air force and bases and installations for the naval forces as well as various types of military training for the Sudanese Armed Forces.

4. In its request for such aid, Sudan has made it a condition that all the aid be allocated to the Sudanese Armed Forces and placed under their control for purely defensive purposes.

5. In the event that Sudan is subjected to aggression by a big power, it is natural for it to seek the help of its friends whoever they may be. It is only logical for Sudan to provide these friends with all the military facilities available to the Sudanese Armed Forces--air and naval bases and everything else.

6. Through the efforts and initiatives made by President Ja'far Numayri, Sudan emphasizes its adherence to the principle of rejecting foreign military presence, which can drag the African and Arab [illegible] into the arena of international conflict which serves the interests of the antagonisti[illegible]jor powers. It is also determined to continue its efforts to neutralize the Red Sea, to establish peace and stability in it and to shield it from international conflict.

7. There has been no coup attempt in Sudan in the generally recognized sense of the word, but there have been limited suspect contacts conducted by a retired officer with a small number of civilians and military men. The Sudanese authorities concerned have begun investigating them.

The embassy said that it presents this explanation in order to emphasize that the situation is stable, that security prevails in Sudan and that what has been reiterated about the coup attempt is grossly exaggerated.

TANZANIA

MINISTER URGES BORDER MEETINGS WITH KENYA

LD251854 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Tanzanian officials in the four regions bordering Kenya have been urged to meet local Kenyan officials regularly to discuss border security problems. A Tanzanian government-owned newspaper the DAILY NEWS, reported today that the Tanzanian minister for home affairs, Brig Muhiddin Kimario, told the regional officials that meeting at least four times a year could have reduced livestock rustling, poaching and smuggling in the border area.

Brigadier Kimario led the Tanzanian delegation which participated in last month's talks between Kenya and Tanzanian officials over the issue of security on the border in Nairobi. The Kenya-Tanzanian border has been closed for the past 4 years by Tanzanian authorities.

UGANDA

VICE PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON POWER DISRUPTION

LD260646 Kampala Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 26 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The vice president and minister of defense, Mr 'Aulo Muwanga, said that bandits once again tried to disrupt peace last Tuesday, cutting off the power line to Kampala and attempting to make a broadcast at Bugolobi transmitters.

In a statement to the National Assembly, yesterday, the vice president said: We began this year with a high degree of hope and a sense of direction. In February, however, as the house now knows, gangs of bandits made armed attacks on national institutions. The damage was not great and their main intention, to acquire arms, was not (?assured).

(?The press both) here and abroad, published, at the time, claims by some Ugandans that they were behind these attacks and that these Ugandans had the intention to disrupt order. The Ugandans who reportedly made those claims do not represent the will of the people of this country. The president and the leader of the opposition met after those armed attacks and both agreed that their respective parties were not involved in any scheme to disrupt the existing order.

The December elections showed clearly that only the Uganda People's Congress and the Democratic Party (?commands have been) [words indistinct] the people of Uganda. Since these two parties dissociated themselves from these acts of lawlessness, it stands clear that the groups behind these attacks of lawlessness are a tiny minority of disgruntled and (?fascist) elements within our society.

Yesterday, these bandits cut off the power line to Kampala at the village of Seta, east of Kampala. In another incident, they went to the broadcasting transmitters at Bugolobi, (?using) [words indistinct] and gained access into the building and there they attempted to make a broadcast.

Honorable members, we (?say) that (?anybody for any reason) whatsoever who attempts to interfere with the supply of power in this country is clearly an enemy of the society. This power, for example, is used in the hospitals and surgeons use it when they are doing operations and also those working in the [words indistinct]. To interfere with such supplies is to commit murder. Further, electricity is used for various services which we all know. To interrupt such service is to inflict untold harm on society as a whole.

Honorable members, these people have declared war on society and the government will spare no effort in ridding society of these criminal elements.

[Paris AFP in English at 1520 GMT on 25 March notes: "Mr. Muwanga also made no mention of the later shooting today at the headquarters of the ruling Uganda People's Congress (UPC) Party of President Milton Obote in Kampala City centre from a passing white Landrover. The shooting left bullet holes in the second floor windows of the building.]

PRESIDENT OBOTE TO ADDRESS NATION ON 28 MAR

LD251518 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 25 Mar 81 EA

[Text] The president of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Dr Apollo Milton Obote, will address the nation from Soroti on Saturday, 28 March 1981, at 1400.

NAIROBI REPORTS CASUALTIES IN KAMPALA ATTACK

LD252014 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Reports from Kampala, Uganda, said today that saboteurs blew up a power transmission tower, 10 miles east of the capital last night. And reports said that gunmen attacked the headquarters of President Milton Obote's Ruling Uganda People's Congress Party early today in a new wave of antigovernment violence. A transmission station of Uganda radio was also attacked, according to the reports, by guerrillas in an assault that left three government soldiers dead and one wounded.

Military sources said that power was restored to some parts of Kampala at noon today and many parts of Kampala remained without communication. A spokesman of Uganda electricity Board said the damage to the power transmission lines which carry electricity from Owen Falls hydroelectric dam on the Nile River would take a minimum of 3 days to repair.

DAR ES SALAAM REPORTS TWO DEAD, TWO MISSING

LD251836 Dar es Salaam in English to Central and Southern Africa 1600 GMT 25 Mar 81 EA

[Excerpt] Kampala--Armed men have attacked the headquarters of President Milton Obote's ruling party in Kampala. The attack has come after two incidents yesterday when gunmen attacked a Radio Uganda transmitter at Bugolobi, in Kampala, killing two soldiers and seriously injuring another. According to a TANZANIA NEWS AGENCY dispatch from Kampala, two engineers who were on duty at the transmitter are reported missing. The transmitter was, however, not interfered with.

MINISTER ADDRESSES PLANS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

LD251604 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1400 GMT 25 Mar 81 EA

[Text] Public servants have been urged to have a sense of dedication to their jobs and rid themselves of bad morals, and replace them with what he called civilized morals. Addressing the information officers seminar currently going on at the Institute of Public Administration, the minister of public service and cabinet affairs, Mr Okwanje, reiterated UPC [Uganda People's Congress] government commitment to create from the present public service a service which is loyal and dedicated. He asked the information officers to interpret whatever they cover in a plan and understandable language to the ordinary man.

The minister attributed part of the failure in public service to unfair remuneration in relation to the cost of living but he hoped after the salary review commission had reported to the government things would improve. He informed the participants that the government had set up a committee to advise of how best the service could be restructured taking into account the country's needs. The minister assured civil servants that the government had no intention of sacking public servants wholesale and informed them that no one except the president, on the advice of the Public Service Commission, had the powers to sack anybody from service.

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

CURFEW REDUCED 1 HOUR; OPPOSITION LEADERS MEET

AB252100 Paris AFP in French 1543 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Excerpt] Bangui, 25 Mar (AFP)--President David Dacko's decision on Wednesday to reduce the curfew by 1 hour appeared to be another indication of harmony. The curfew, decreed in the CAR on 18 March 1981, will now begin at 2000 local time (1980 GMT) and end at 0500.

However, the state of siege declared on 21 March after demonstrations by hostile youths protesting the results of the presidential elections remains in effect. According to the constitution, it can last a maximum of 30 days.

But it is hardly noticeable in the day. The troops originally stationed at strategic points of the capital have now returned to the barracks and normal work has resumed everywhere. On Wednesday planes began landing again at Bangui Mpoko [as received] Airport although their timetables were altered to avoid the curfew.

Opposition leaders--Mr Ange Patasse of the Central African People's Liberation Movement, Mr Henri Maidou of the Republican Party for Progress, Mr Abel Goumba of the Ubangui People's Progressive Front and independent leader Francois Pehoua--held a meeting in Bangui on Wednesday. It is not known yet if they completed the appeal they intend to submit to the Supreme Court to cancel the presidential election or if they met to decide on another joint move.

LE MONDE INTERVIEWS OPPOSITION LEADER PATASSE

LD260937 Paris LE MONDE in French 24 Mar 81 p 8

[Philippe Decraene report on interview granted by Central African opposition leader Ange Patasse near Bangui on 21 March: "The French Government Encouraged Rigging"]

[Text] Bangui--Although Ange Patasse is spurned by many French people in Central Africa who regard him as the personification of militant xenop[illegible]bia, he gives a completely different picture of himself. However he will not win [illegible] French over because they say his attitude is two-faced.

He broke a 1-week silence on Saturday, 21 March when he received four French journalists on one of his farms near Bangui--at "kilometer 26"--surrounded by some 30 people, including his movement's top officials, and he portrayed himself as the "man with the open approach."

The man whose name represents opposition to Mr Dacko's regime achieved a score [in the recent presidential election] which surprised everybody. This agricultural expert, educated in France, was minister under Bokassa 13 times, was appointed prime minister of the first imperial government in December 1976 and is an excellent orator. He is reputed to be authoritarian and deliberately demagogical and has undoubted influence over the ordinary people, demonstrating unusual charisma in the country.

The man portrayed by his adversaries as a vehement agitator is now very calm. He wants to win people over and appease them. He moved readily and smoothly from modesty to pomposity, from affability to sarcasm. Would he agree to accept the post of prime minister?

[Answer] The basic objective is not to secure a post but to secure the democratic path.

[Question] What is his opinion on the presidential election?

[Answer] There were anomalies, irregularities and rigging at all levels, as the people's anger shows.

[Question] Does he reject the election results?

[Answer] We realize that we must not fight for the presidency at any cost. The parliamentary and municipal elections still have to take place.

[Question] Will there be peace?

[Answer] It has always been our ally in the struggle against tyranny and despotism. We regard journalists as our ambassadors.

[Question] What about violence?

[Answer] I strongly condemn it whatever form it takes. Our emblem is oval like the table of permanent dialogue.

[Question] What about the previous day's demonstrations?

[Answer] Stop thinking that we are agitators; we are not hooligans or adventurers. As soon as our party appealed for calm, order was completely restored. But we are not the only people in the streets. Moreover Mr Dacko's party is spreading confusion to portray us as anti-French.

[Question] What precisely is Mr Patasse's view of Franco-Central African relations?

[Answer] I am a nationalist. We do not have any intention of troubling the French people who are here. Those who claim otherwise are deceiving people and manipulating the truth. But we want our independence to be safeguarded even if we are prepared to give French cooperation a special place.

[Question] What about Barracuda? [Reference to French force]

[Answer] I heartily thank our Barracuda friends for remaining neutral during the elections and not interfering in our affairs.

[Question] What about President Giscard d'Estaing?

[Answer] He must not encourage civil war. The French Government is responsible for the two people who were killed on Friday...[answer ends]

With regard to Libya, whose agent he is alleged to be, he said: "If it attacks us we will respond. But although we can choose our friends we cannot choose our neighbors. We are forced to live with Libya which is an African state."

[Question] Is there an outside threat which justifies maintaining French soldiers in Bouar?

[Answer] Bouar is not an isolated problem. It must be considered in the context of a general review of the cooperation agreements, some of which are obsolete...[answer ends]

Mr Patasse said he is holding out his hand to the president-elect but on certain conditions: "If it is proved that Dacko was elected democratically and without any fraud our forces will be mobilized to give him complete support. We will help him to establish national unity..."

CHAD

LEADERS MAKING EFFORTS TO END LIBYAN PRESENCE

LD251523 Paris LE CONTINENT in French 23 Mar 81 p 1

[Ibrahima Signate dispatch: "Goukouni Is Trying To Secure Libyans' Departure"]

[Text] Dakar--According to an authoritative Chadian source close to National Unity Transition Government circles, the Ndjamena government is acutely aware of the virtually unanimous disapproval being aroused in foreign opinion by the presence of Libyan troops in Chad, and is trying to secure the departure of those troops as soon as possible. The government members who are natives of the south are the warmest advocates of that departure. President Goukouni Oueddei is also in favor of it, but his military and political dependence on Tripoli considerably limits his room to maneuver. Thus he is leaving it up to the southerners to secure the Libyans' departure--an amicable departure in fact. Only Foreign Minister Ahmat Acyl is essentially in favor of a prolonged presence by Tripoli's army.

Those who want the departure of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's troops want them replaced by a neutral force comprising African contingents. Thus Nigeria has been discreetly asked by Ndjamena to use its influence to persuade the Libyans that their withdrawal from Chad is necessary. Indeed, according to the same source, only Nigeria is capable of saving Chad from Libyan control by playing a counterbalancing role.

Moreover the Chadian authorities are also apparently asking Lagos to approach Sudan and Egypt to stop their aid to Hissein Habre's guerrillas in exchange for a total Libyan withdrawal. Ndjamena is apparently not hostile to the presence of Sudanese and Egyptian contingents in the netural force. Indeed, the strengthening of the national armed forces is worrying the Ndjamena authorities, who say that they are chiefly worried by the prospect of a new war in which foreign countries would fight using Chadians as intermediaries.

What would happen to Hissein Habre should the planned negotiations produce positive results? According to Ndjamena he should keep a low profile for a while in the interest of peace. It is doubtful that Habre would share that view.... On a different plane, the Chadian authorities are rather disappointed by Libyan financial aid, which they regard as small in view of their great needs. Indeed, Libya has so far only granted Chad aid amounting to 3 billion Chadian francs for restoring public buildings and the administrative machine. It has also promised to lend Chad 750 million Chadian francs interest-free each month for 6 months. Tripoli is not stinting on armaments, however.

GHANA

LIMANN COMMENTS ON IVORIAN INCIDENT, REACTION

AB252100 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] The president, Dr Limann, returned home a short while ago after a 2-day official visit to Mali. He was welcomed by the vice president, Dr deGraft Johnson, ministers, members of parliament and members of the diplomatic corps.

Speaking to newsmen later, Dr Limann described the trip as a very successful one. He said he had fruitful discussions with his host, President Moussa Traore. To a question whether Ghana should break diplomatic relations with the Ivory Coast over the death of 46 Ghanaians in Abidjan, President Limann said that such a move will be a defeatist approach to the problem. He especially called for patience and calm and said Ghanaians should not overreact. The president observed that accidents do happen and that two wrongs do not make a right. Any overreaction will not do the country any good. He said Ghanaians should not allow their emotions to overcome their better judgment. Mr Limann said Ghana has always shown the way as a responsible and mature country and this is not the time to take any irrational step would create anarchy.

On the African scene, President Limann said the government will continue to work toward the implementation of decisions already taken in the interest of regional and African unity. He said permanent joint commissions, which have been dormant, will be revived and new ones set up in due course. He said avenues for cooperation with other African states are better now than ever before.

President Limann had a brief stopover in Lome, Togo, during which he held talks with President Eyadema.

UNC SUGGESTS RECALL OF AMBASSADOR TO IVORY COAST

AB260701 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] Political parties and voluntary organizations continue to express concern about the murder of 46 Ghanaians in the Ivory Coast. A statement by the United National Convention [UNC] said the party is dismayed at the Ghana Government's inability to take stronger measures to register the nation's anger over the incident. In the light of the failure of the Ivorian Government to render an apology to the government and people of Ghana, the UNC suggests that Ghana's ambassador to the Ivory Coast should be recalled. In addition, the government should seek from the Ivory Coast authorities prompt and adequate reparations for the families of the deceased.

GUINEA-BISSAU

PORTUGUESE NEWS AGENCY CORRESPONDENT EXPELLED

LD251740 Lisbon Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] The Guinea-Bissau authorities have expelled the correspondent of the Portuguese news agency, ANOP, who is already on his way to Lisbon. The Bissau government has justified the expulsion order on the grounds that the activities of the journalist, [name indistinct], were harmful to the state.

The Portuguese authorities have started procedures with a view to persuading the Bissau authorities to reconsider their decision.

LIBERIA

DOE SAYS BANK TAKEOVER TO PROTECT INVESTORS

AB252115 Paris AFP in English 1757 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] Monrovia, March 25 (AFP)--The government is to appoint a committee from banking institutions to make recommendations on the possibility of the Bank of Liberia, the country's only private bank, operating without state subsidies.

The bank recently halted trading when the National Bank of Liberia announced its take-over because of the unsound and deteriorating condition of the Bank of Liberia and its adverse [word indistinct].

Head of state Master Sergeant Samuel K. Doe told a news conference here today that the take-over by the national bank was aimed to safeguard the interest of depositors foreign investors as well as the government. He said the government did not aim at confiscating private businesses, including the Bank of Liberia, "but to correct irregularities there."

The Bank of Liberia, once the largest in the country, had received a government subsidy and the government wants to know why it still cannot survive, Master Sergeant Doe said.

Master Sergeant Doe said that deposits at the bank had been given out as loans to friends of bank executives and officials of the deposed William Tolbert government, who had failed to settle their accounts.

The bank was founded in 1955, with some initial capital coming from the family of ousted President Tolbert.

The Chemical Bank of New York, which held 48 per cent of the original capital, withdrew its interest shortly after the coup of April 12, 1980.

MALI

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON GHANAIAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT

AB252040 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Communique issued in Bamako on 25 March at the end of Ghanaian President Limann's 3-day official visit to Mali--read by Malian Foreign Minister Alioune Blondin Beye]

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency Gen Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People and president of the Republic of Mali, His Excellency Hilla Limann, president of the Republic of Ghana, accompanied by a large delegation, paid a friendly visit to the Republic of Mali from 23 to 25 March 1981. All the Malian people are honored by President Limann's visit, which falls within the framework of the constantly strengthening friendly relations between the peoples of Ghana and Mali.

During his visit to Mali, His Excellency Dr Hilla Limann and his delegation, accompanied by His Excellency Gen Moussa Traore, visited Mopti, the capital of the fifth region. The Ghanaian head of state was greatly impressed by the economic development of that city, especially the fishing and fish processing plant, from which his country imports a considerable amount.

His Excellency Dr Hilla Limann and Gen Moussa Traore held talks which took place in a friendly and cordial atmosphere of mutual understanding.

The two heads of state also met in a working session attended on the Ghanaian side by His Excellency Nana Okutwer Bekoe, national chairman of the People's National Party [PNP]; His Excellency Dr Chinebuah, minister of foreign affairs; His Excellency Col David Zanlerigu, minister of works and housing; His Excellency Dr Ocran, minister of health; His Excellency Agbesi, minister of agriculture; His Excellency Dr Arthur, secretary to the president; His Excellency Dr Ivan Addai-Menash, secretary of the PNP; His Excellency Dr Owusu, personal adviser to the president on political affairs; His Excellency Zaccharia, member of Parliament; Mr (Bondzi), director of the Political Division of the Foreign Ministry; His Excellency (Abubakar Ababu Seidu), Ghana's ambassador to Mali.

On the Malian side His Excellency Mr Mohamed Ahmed Ag Hamani, minister of planning; His Excellency Alioune Blondin Beye, minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation, His Excellency Mady Diallo, minister of animal husbandry water and forests; His Excellency Djibril Diallo, minister of transport and public works; His Excellency Drissa Keita, minister of finance and commerce; His Excellency Dr Ngolo Traore, minister of public health and social affairs; His Excellency Tiecoro Diakite, minister of state firms and enterprises; His Excellency Lt Col Sory Ibrahima Sylla, minister of interior; Her Excellency Mrs Gacou nee Fatou Niang, minister of information and telecommunications; His Excellency Demba Diallo, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Mali to Accra and His Excellency (Diakite), diplomatic adviser at the President's Office.

During their discussion, the two parties exchanged a wide range of views marked by the sincere and permanent concern to make the relationship between the two countries correspond to the fundamental aspirations of the two countries. On bilateral questions, the two parties reaffirmed their common desire to further develop their cooperation in the economic, scientific, technical, social and cultural fields. The two parties agreed to explore all possible ways likely to strengthen cooperation between their two countries. To this end, they reaffirmed their determination to explore ways to speed up the process of economic cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the Ghana-Mali joint cooperation commission and ECOWAS. The two parties also agreed that widening and making their cooperation more dynamic will not only contribute to developing the relationship between the two countries but will also enhance inter-African cooperation and intensify the struggle against imperialism, colonialism and apartheid.

Reviewing international economic [issues], the two parties deplored the deadlock which has characterized the North-South dialogue. They stressed the need to promote and intensify fruitful cooperation in order to speed up the development of the countries concerned. On inter-African cooperation, the two parties emphasized the active solidarity which should exist among member states of regional and subregional organizations. They expressed their commitment to using their efforts to promote a dynamic and smooth development of ECOWAS, an ideal framework for the real economic integration of states of the subregion. They reaffirmed their unflinching faith in the economic charter of the OAU and expressed satisfaction about the results of the last OAU economic summit held in Lagos on 28 and 28 April 1980.

On the areas of tension in Africa, the two parties reaffirmed their faith in the aims and principles of the OAU Charter, especially concerning noninterference into internal matters of member states, the peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for the integrity and sovereignty of each state and the inviolability of borders inherited from the colonial period. The two parties expressed their concern over the areas of conflict in Africa and condemned foreign intervention on the continent.

On the Chadian problem, the two parties made a passionate appeal for a lasting solution to the dispute in accordance with the Lagos accord and the recommendations of the last OAU summit conference held from 1 to 4 July 1980 in Freetown.

On the Western Sahara situation, the two parties reaffirmed their support for the efforts made by the OAU ad hoc committee to find a just and lasting solution to the conflict through negotiations. They called for a final settlement of the conflict by recognizing the right of the Western Sahara people to self-determination and independence. The two parties expressed their deep concern over the worsening situation in South Africa.

They unreservedly denounced the shameful system of apartheid in Anzania and acts of aggression perpetrated by the racist Government of South Africa against frontline states. They also decided to give their total support to SWAPO, the sole and true representative of the Namibian people, in their heroic struggle to regain total independence and territorial integrity of Namibia.

Examining the Middle East situation, the two parties agreed that the recognition of the aspirations and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence remains the only guarantee for a comprehensive peace in that region.

The two parties expressed satisfaction with the results of President Limann's friendly visit to Mali and considered it a rich contribution toward strengthening fraternal links between the peoples of Ghana and Mali.

President Hilla Limann, on his own behalf and on behalf of his delegation, expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude to His Excellency Gen Moussa Traore, secretary general of the Democratic Union of Malian People [UDPM] and president of the Republic of Mali and the entire Malian people for the warm and fraternal reception given to him throughout his stay.

President Hilla Limann invited his brother and friend, Gen Moussa Traore, to pay an official visit to Ghana. The invitation was accepted with pleasure and the date will be announced later through diplomatic channels.

Issued in Bamako on 25 March 1981 in English and French.

[Signed] His Excellency Gen Moussa Traore, secretary general of the UDPM and president of the Republic of Mali;
His Excellency Dr Hilla Limann, president of the Republic of Ghana.

NIGERIA

FOREIGN MINISTER CONFERS WITH UN SECRETARY GENERAL

AB260824 Paris AFP in English 0803 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Excerpt] United Nations, New York, 26 Mar (AFP)--Nigerian External Affairs Minister Ishaya Audu and United Nations Secretary General Kurt Waldheim discussed Chad, Southern Africa and the UN force in Lebanon during an hour-long meeting here Wednesday.

Two Nigerian members of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) were killed and 11 others injured 10 days ago during shelling on UN Positions by the Israeli-backed Christian militia of Major Saad Haddad. Tomorrow Mr Audu is expected in Washington at the start of a three-day official visit to the United States.

TALKS OPEN WITH CUBA ON HEALTH CARE, AGRICULTURE

AB260945 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Mar 81

[Text] The vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme, told the Cuban delegation yesterday in Lagos that the country was interested in sharing Cuba's experience in health care delivery and agriculture. He reemphasized at the opening of talks with the delegation that this desire was born out of the government's determination to provide enough food and health care facilities to the people. The vice president hoped that the two draft agreements on economic and cultural relations will be signed before the Cubans return home.

The Cuban vice president, Juan Bosque, will this morning deliver a special message from President Fidel Castro to President Shehu Shagari before he leaves for Kwara State in the afternoon.

UPPER VOLTA

STUDENT UNION PROTESTS 'ARBITRARY' ARRESTS

AB251352 Paris AFP in French 1326 GMT 24 Mar 81

[Text] Paris, 24 Mar (AFP)--The Upper Voltan General Students' Union has issued a communique affirming that the Military Committee of Redress for National Progress and its government have been engaged in arbitrary arrests of Upper Voltan trade unionists, high school teachers, pupils and students. According to the communique, the purpose of this is to prove that the arrested persons are members of a clandestine communist party called the Upper Voltan Revolutionary Communist Party.

In the communique, the Upper Voltan General Students' Union protested against these arrests which constitute a serious violation of democratic and trade union freedoms in Upper Volta.

Zerbo Denial

AB251413 Paris AFP in French 1259 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] Ouagadougou, 25 Mar (AFP)--The ruling Military Committee for Redress and National Development (CMPRN), in Upper Volta has denied the information given by the General Union of Voltan Students (UGEV) in an open letter addressed to the CMPRN accusing it of arbitrary arrests of trade unionists, teachers, pupils and students.

In a note presented to the AFP on Wednesday the chairman of the CMPRN and head of state, Col Saye Zerbo, pointed out that an operation had been launched against anarchists on the payroll of a few unthinking elements of the former regime. There is material proof, President Saye Zerbo said. They must be sought out first, on the spot, before all useless criticisms are made from afar.

It is therefore not an attack on freedom of speech and expression, and the CMPRN and the government are determined to respect and enforce respect for these liberties, the Upper Voltan head of state added.

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA REACTS TO STATEMENT BY AFRICA BLOC CHAIRMAN

LD252244 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 25 Mar 81

[Text] The South African foreign affairs minister, Mr Roelof Botha, says South Africa will not allow itself to be blackmailed from any quarter whatever about the stand that it's taken regarding terrorists based in neighboring states. He was commenting in Pretoria on a statement made by the chairman of the Africa bloc at the United Nations, who lashed out at South Africa for its attacks on terrorist bases in neighboring countries. The statement was also critical of the United States for its new attitude toward South Africa.

Mr Botha said South Africa had made its policy clear with regard to terrorists across its borders. It would not allow terrorists to engage in subversion from bases in neighboring countries. Mr Botha said the aim of the statement had apparently been to intimidate the United States not to maintain realistic relations with South Africa. It was possibly also intended to cover up the fact that certain countries were harboring terrorists bent on subversion against the people of southwest Africa and South Africa. However no statement put out by the Africa bloc would be able to disguise the truth.

Mr Botha said that what the African bloc spokesman had failed to mention was that several African countries cooperated closely with South Africa in economic spheres. The African group spokesman had also not realized and revealed that the leaders of some African countries apparently did not care that the misery under which their people lived was worsening by the day. Mr Botha said this was not his own evaluation but one borne cut by expert reports from the United Nations, the Organization of African Unity and the World Bank.

ZIMBABWE

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH CSSR

LD261140 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Mar 81 CA

[Text] Zimbabwe and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic today signed an agreement to establish diplomatic relations between the two countries. The agreement was signed by the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Mangwende, and by the Czechoslovak deputy foreign minister, Comrade Stanislav Svoboda.

Speaking at the ceremony, Comrade Mangwende hailed the establishment of diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia as a turning point in the development of relations between the two countries. He said closer cooperation between Zimbabwe and Czechoslovakia will play an important role in upholding world peace and in the elimination of the last vestiges of colonialism and racism in Africa.

In reply, Comrade Svoboda praised the people of Zimbabwe for their historic victory against colonialism. He stressed that Zimbabwe's successes have proved that the process of national liberation of the oppressed peoples in southern Africa cannot be stopped.